PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2009–2010

COMPRISING PERIOD
5 January 2010—14 January 2010

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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* *Regional Ministers (in addition to other ministerial responsibilities)*

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5 January 2010

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 5 January 2010

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Food 2030

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I am today publishing the Government's new food strategy—"Food 2030", which follows up the Cabinet Office Strategy Unit July 2008 report "Food Matters".

Last August, we published our assessment of the UK's food security, and we held an online discussion forum on the future of food between August and October 2009. In total, over 600 people and organisations responded.

Food security has come to the fore following food prices rising sharply in 2008 for the first time in a generation, provoking riots in some parts of the world. With a growing global population, a changing climate, and pressure being put on land, we are going to need to produce more food, to do so sustainably, and to ensure that the food we eat safeguards our health.

"Food 2030" sets out the steps that all those involved in food can take to put us on this path, in particular by helping consumers to be better informed and able to buy healthy food from sustainable sources; by minimising waste; by making sure every part of the supply chain is resilient, competitive and has the skills that match the challenge; and by using science and technological advance to assist us.

All of this will require leadership and co-operation from all those involved in farming, fisheries, food production and public health. I will update the House as the strategy is implemented.

Copies of the strategy are available in the Libraries of both Houses and on DEFRA's website.

HEALTH

Generic Substitution in Primary Care

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien): The Department committed to the introduction of generic substitution in primary care in the national health service, subject to discussion with affected parties, in the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme 2009. The Department is today commencing a consultation on the proposals to implement generic substitution, where a generic medicine is dispensed instead of a branded medicine.

Discussions with, and views expressed by, stakeholders during the course of the last year have proved invaluable, endorsing in particular the need to appropriately account for patient safety in the implementation of generic substitution, and enable prescribers to continue to meet individual patient clinical need. Further to this engagement, the Department is consulting on three options for the implementation of generic substitution in primary care in England. These options are to:

do nothing;

introduce dispensing flexibility, but with specific exclusions, so that the arrangements do not apply to a selected group of products on an exempt list; and

introduce dispensing flexibility, but limiting the scheme in such a way that the arrangements only apply to a selected group of products on a select list.

The Department's preferred approach is the third option, supplemented by an "opt out endorsement". The reasons for this include considerations relating to patient safety and clinical need, savings to the NHS and manageability of implementation for clinicians and prescription infrastructure providers.

This consultation runs from 5 January 2010 to 30 March 2010. Further details, including the consultation document and how to respond, can be found at: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/index.htm. There will be consultation events, and details of these will be published on the NHS Primary Care Commissioning website at: www.pcc.nhs.uk/events.

A copy of the consultation document has been placed in the Library and copies are available for hon. Members from the Vote office.

JUSTICE

Boundary Commission for Wales

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): I should like to inform hon. Members that the Secretary of State for Justice has received notice in writing from the Boundary Commission for Wales of the commencement of an interim review. The review will be of the boundaries of the parliamentary constituencies of Brecon and Radnorshire CC and Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney CC and will be based upon the number of electors on the electoral register at 21 December 2009. The review will include consideration of proposals for the Assembly constituencies and electoral regions as required by the Government of Wales Act 1998.

Dangerous Driving

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Claire Ward): The Government have been working throughout this Parliament to improve safety on Britain's roads. In recent years we have enacted a number of measures designed to deal more effectively with those whose driving puts others at serious risk. We have:

introduced the new offences of causing death by careless driving and causing death while driving unlicensed or uninsured, which have maximum penalties of five years and two years imprisonment, respectively; and

increased the maximum penalty for serious driving offences, including causing death by dangerous driving and causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, from 10 to 14 years imprisonment (Criminal Justice Act 2003, came into effect on 27 February 2004).

But we need to do more. Dangerous driving is still too prevalent. We should not underestimate the devastating effect that bad driving can have on people's lives. I have listened to the representations from those who are campaigning for increased penalties for dangerous driving. I have come to the conclusion that they are right, and that the current penalties are insufficient.

I therefore intend to increase the maximum penalty for dangerous driving from two years imprisonment to five years imprisonment. This will require primary legislation. An appropriate provision will be included in a suitable Bill when parliamentary time allows.

Mortgages (Power of Sale and Residential Property)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): On 29 December the Ministry of Justice published the consultation paper: "Mortgages: Power of Sale and Residential Property". This fulfils the commitment to consult made in the July 2009 Consumer White Paper, "A Better Deal for Consumers: Delivering Real Help Now and Change for the Future", and follows concerns raised over the outcome of the High Court case of *Horsham Properties Ltd v Clark and Beech* [2008] EWHC 2327 (Ch).

The consultation paper proposes that lenders be legally required to seek a possession or sale order from the courts, or obtain the agreement of the borrower, before selling the borrower's home to settle the outstanding mortgage debt. This will guarantee homeowners the opportunity to access the protections available from the court before their home is sold or repossessed. This will prevent possible abuse of the power of sale in the future.

The proposals would apply only to owner-occupied properties and would not affect buy-to-let and other commercial mortgage loans. The consultation paper does not extend to issues concerning the financial regulation of lenders.

Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The paper is also available on the Ministry of Justice website at: www.justice.gsi.gov.uk.

The consultation period will close on 28 March 2010.

TRANSPORT

Electric Personal Vehicles and Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycles

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

> The Department for Transport is today publishing two 12-week consultations.
>
> One seeks views on the principle of changing the law to permit the use, on public roads and cycle tracks, of small electric personal vehicles (EPVs), which do not meet current legal requirements for such use.
>
> The consultation does not include consideration of the use of pedestrian footways or footpaths by these vehicles.
>
> New technologies may offer new opportunities. At present any EPV which does not comply with existing road traffic law may only be used on private land, with landowner permission. I am keen to ensure a full consideration of the issues. As a result, this consultation invites opinions, and supporting evidence, about whether the law should be changed to permit such EPVs on public roads and cycle tracks. Depending on the consultation results, legislative proposals and further detailed consultation may follow.
>
> The second concerns electrically assisted pedal cycles and seeks views on proposals to provide closer alignment of GB regulations with European provisions. The proposals will provide greater clarity regarding the type of product considered to be an electrically assisted pedal cycle and those considered to be motor vehicles, for example, mopeds.
>
> The consultation documents and response forms are available on the Department's website and copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.
>
> The consultations will close on Tuesday 30 March 2010.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 6 January 2010

TREASURY

Corporate Taxation

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): I am announcing today the Government's intention to present to Parliament proposed legislative changes to the corporation tax rules for capital gains of companies for inclusion in Finance Bill 2010. The changes, which have immediate effect from 6 January 2010, will ensure that a postponed charge on gains arising where assets of an overseas branch are transferred to a non-resident company is brought back into charge at the appropriate time.

The changes will affect UK companies that transfer assets of an overseas branch to a non-resident company in exchange for securities consisting of shares or loan stock. In these circumstances corporation tax on gains arising from the transfer are postponed until the disposal of the securities.

In some situations, however, the security received in exchange can be an exempt asset. Where loan stock is received it can fall within the definition of a Qualifying Corporate Bond ('QCB'). Section 115 of the Taxation of Capital Gains Act 1992 exempts QCB's from tax on capital gains. As a result any postponed gain arising from a transfer of an overseas branch's assets is exempt on the subsequent disposal of a security received in exchange where that security is a QCB. This can create unintended outcomes in the treatment of postponed gains.

The proposed legislative change will correct this defect in the current rules. Where a gain on the transfer of an overseas branch's assets to a non-resident company in exchange for securities has been postponed, the change will ensure that the disposal of securities will create a deemed gain that is chargeable to tax. Instead of treating the postponed gain as additional consideration for the disposal of an exempt asset, a separate chargeable gain equal to the postponed gain will be deemed to accrue at the time of disposal of the securities. This change will apply where the securities themselves are exempt from a charge to tax.

HM Revenue and Customs will today publish a Technical Note on its website setting out further detail, including the draft legislative amendments.

Double Taxation Arrangement (United Kingdom and Montserrat)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): An arrangement amending the 1947 double taxation arrangement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Montserrat was signed in London on 9 December 2009.

After signature, the text of the arrangement was deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons shortly.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy (Annual Report)

The Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Dawn Primarolo): I would inform the House that the Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy has published its annual report for 2008-09. Copies will be placed in the House Libraries.

DEFENCE

Call-Out Order (Iraq and the Gulf)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell): A new call-out order has been made under section 56 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 so that reservists may continue to be called-out into permanent service to support operations in the region of Iraq and the Gulf. The order takes effect from 5 January 2010 and ceases to have effect on 4 January 2011.

Although the main body of the UK's armed forces were withdrawn from Iraq last June, a number of operational tasks remain including: the Royal Navy training team set up under the UK training and maritime support agreement; RN patrols to protect offshore oil platforms and shipping lanes; staff and liaison posts; the NATO training mission (training of Iraqi army officers). Reservists may be called out to support any of these tasks although we envisage that the majority will be from the Royal Naval Reserve to support the maritime operations.

Members of the reserve forces have made an important contribution to the UK's operations in Iraq and the Gulf and their continued support is greatly appreciated and valued.

Veterans in Prison

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): The Minister with responsibility for the National Offender Management Service, the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Garston (Maria Eagle) and I wish to make the following joint statement.

The MOD and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) have been working to provide up to date and authoritative data on the number of veterans in prison in England and Wales. We can today confirm that the Defence Analytical Services and Advice (DASA) of the MOD has estimated that ex-service personnel in prison represent almost 3 per cent. of offenders in prison.

The estimate was determined by matching a database of prisoners aged 18 and over in England and Wales from the MOJ against a database of service leavers held by the MOD. The analysis does not include reservists nor those who had left the service prior to 1979 (Navy), 1972 (Army), and 1968 (RAF). Further work will seek to quantify the likely effect of the incompleteness of the MOD database. DASA estimates that a more complete database is unlikely to increase the estimated proportion of offenders who are ex-service to more than 4 per cent. This is because reservists have other employment and it is possible that it makes them less likely to come into contact with the criminal justice system; and, because evidence from previous studies suggests that crimes tend to be committed soon after discharge from service.

The 3 per cent. figure compares with the Home Office survey of 2,000 nationally representative offenders at the point of release in 2001, 2003 and 2004, which reported the armed forces proportion to be 6 per cent., 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively.

The next stage in this project will be to evaluate the ex-service prison population in terms of demographic and service variables such as age, gender, service branch, length of service, rank, deployment history, time since discharge, and offence type. This qualitative analysis should allow for informed policy decisions to be made where necessary to ensure that resources are better targeted at appropriate groups of offenders. The MOD will also investigate where relevant improvements could be made in-service to minimise contact with the criminal justice system once personnel are discharged from the armed forces.

The Howard League for Penal Reform in November 2009 launched an independent inquiry into former armed forces personnel in prison. We understand that the inquiry will take a year to conclude, but we intend to work closely with Sir John Nutting QC and his team and have offered to share the findings of our analysis with them.

We will keep the House informed of developments.

HEALTH

NHS Pay Review Body (2010-11)

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): I am responding to the letter and supporting paper received from the NHS Pay Review Body (NHSPRB) on 10 December 2009. Copies of the letter and supporting paper have been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office. I am grateful to the chair and members of the NHSPRB for their work in support of the three-year deal and the other issues they have considered this year.

I welcome the NHSPRB's decision not to seek a remit from me to review the 2010-11 pay uplift for NHS staff on the three-year pay deal. This means we can fulfil our commitment to implement the deal in full.

The NHSPRB did not make any formal recommendations but suggested parties reconsider their recommendation in their 24th report that pharmacists employed in the NHS and paid at Agenda for Change payband 6 and 7 should receive a short-term national Recruitment and Retention Premium (RRP). The NHSPRB

"expect to return to the matter in 2010".

I am content that the actions we have been taking in England, described in my written ministerial statement of 3 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 31WS are the right ones to address the pharmacist recruitment and retention challenges. I am keeping the situation under review.

The NHSPRB concluded that available evidence does not support the case for a national RRP for building craft workers put forward by the Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians but suggested they were included in the review of national RRPs being conducted by the NHS Staff Council. That is a matter for the NHS Staff Council which is responsible for overseeing Agenda for Change pay, terms and conditions which cover about 1.1 million NHS staff.

I note the NHSPRB's concerns about the lack of sufficiently detailed workforce statistics relating to building craft workers and other non clinical staff in the NHS. My Department is working with the NHSPRB's Secretariat (the Office for Manpower Economics) and the NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre to agree how to improve workforce statistics available for these staff groups.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 7 January 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

"Going for Growth: Our Future Prosperity"

The Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr. Pat McFadden): My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills has made the following statement:

A credible deficit reduction plan has to be accompanied by an equally credible growth plan. December's PBR had a clear objective to halve the deficit by 2013-14. It was bold and tough: the equivalent of something approaching an £80 billion turnaround in the public finances. Today I am publishing "Going for Growth: Our Future Prosperity" which sets out our plan for growth, building on the foundations we have already put in place.

The recovery is only the beginning of how we are going to pay our way in the global economy. The jobs of the future will not be the same as those in the past. We will turn new technologies into jobs, like those in digital and biotechnologies. We will commercialise the output of our hugely successful science and research base. We will turn low carbon into business and employment opportunities. None of this is going to happen with Government simply standing on the sidelines. Other Governments are actively investing in their industrial strength. We have to do the same.

The global financial crisis has given us the opportunity to reflect on our approach to industrial policy and the Government's role in shaping markets. Last year, we published "New Industry, New Jobs", setting out our new activist approach. "Going for Growth: Our Future Prosperity" shows how we have developed that strategy and the steps we are taking to ensure the drive for sustainable economic growth is at the heart of the Government's agenda.

Making the most of this new changing environment requires us both to build on our strengths and to develop new capabilities that will enable us to thrive. That means continuing to take a more strategic approach to UK industrial policy in the future-focusing on those sectoral opportunities that will drive discovery and economic growth in this century and helping people get the skills and experience they need to secure high-value jobs throughout their working lives.

There are seven key areas of Government action underpinning our approach:

Supporting enterprise and entrepreneurial activity, including the access to finance required for starting and growing firms;

Fostering knowledge creation and its application;

Helping people develop the skills and capabilities to find work and build the businesses and industries of the future;

Investing in the infrastructure required to support a modern low carbon economy;

Ensuring open and competitive markets to drive innovation and rising productivity;

Building on our industrial strengths where we have particular expertise or might gain a comparative advantage, and where Government action can have an impact;

Recognising and employing the right strategic role for Government in markets that allows us as a nation to capitalise on new opportunities.

Copies of the document have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses, and are available on the BIS website. Paper versions are available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

School Revenue Balances (2008-09)

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Mr. Vernon Coaker): The Department for Children, Schools and Families has today published information on the end of financial year revenue balances of all local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools for the year 2008-09.

This information is presented alongside information on schools' revenue balances for the financial years 1999-2000 to 2007-08 published on 24 February 2009. The information is taken from local authorities' published section 52 outturn statements for the years in question but presents this in summary form. Copies of the information have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and will be accessible from the Department for Children, Schools and Families website, at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychilmatters/strategy/financeandfunding/informationforlocalauthorities/section52/schoolbalances/s52sb/.

Surplus balances totalled £1.92 billion and deficits £139 million at the end of 2008-09, giving net total revenue balances of £1.78 billion. This represents a decrease of £137 million or 7 per cent. compared to the position at the end of 2007-08. At school level, 91 per cent. of schools held a surplus balance, with 33 per cent. holding an excessive balance, defined in guidance from my Department as over 8 per cent. of budget for primary and special schools and over 5 per cent. of budget for secondary schools. Excessive surpluses totalled £495 million.

The Government welcome the fact that balances are coming down, and in particular that excessive balances are reducing, but the level of surplus held by some individual schools is too high. While it is clearly sound financial management for schools to retain a small surplus from year-to-year, we expect revenue funding to be used to support the education and well-being of pupils in school now. It is however important that schools spend their funds wisely while ensuring best value for money. Local authorities have the power to claw back excess, uncommitted surpluses and redistribute the proceeds back to local schools in consultation with schools forums.

Where a school is in deficit, it must agree a recovery plan with the local authority to eliminate the deficit, normally over three years.

As former Schools Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for South Dorset (Jim Knight) made clear in his statement to the House on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 15WS about school revenue balances for 2007-08, we expect schools and local authorities to work to reduce the level of balances by the end of 2010-11. If we do not see a substantial reduction of total revenue balances and in particular the excessive balances held by individual schools, the Government will consider further action from 2011-12 to bring the total down to ensure the funding is being spent on improving outcomes for children and young people.

In the meantime my Department continues to work with its partners to prepare further guidance for local authorities on the control of surplus balances.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Remote Gambling

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): On 30 April 2009, I announced that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Gambling Commission would undertake a review of the current system of remote gambling regulation in Great Britain focusing on consumer protection and ways to ensure that overseas operators contribute towards regulation, problem gambling treatment and the Horserace Betting Levy.

We have examined the way the system currently works, and explored the major regulatory changes taking place in Europe. Based on our findings, I have decided to consult on changing the existing system of remote gambling regulation in Britain so that all operators who want to target British consumers must be licensed by the Commission.

Under an extended remote gambling licensing system, all operators active in the British market would have to adhere to the Act's provisions, its secondary legislation and the Commission's standards and requirements. That would mean obligations to report suspicious betting activity to the Commission and UK sports bodies, as well as compliance with the Commission's software testing, age verification, self-exclusion, technical standards and social responsibility requirements bringing a more consistent level of protection for British consumers.

My proposals would also assist the Commission in effectively advising the Government about the gambling that takes place in Britain and ensure that it is properly funded for the regulatory work it already undertakes, such as test purchase exercises on overseas websites and dealing with public enquiries.

British gamblers form one of the largest customer bases for online gambling in the EU. Yet, for many reasons, increasingly few companies active in the British market are now regulated by the Commission. Though British consumers are not unprotected—most overseas jurisdictions have regulatory systems—standards vary and requirements differ from our own. Therefore, I feel that change is necessary to ensure the protections in the Gambling Act—to keep gambling crime free, to ensure gambling is fair and open, and to ensure that children and vulnerable people are protected from harm—continue to be afforded to British consumers.

These proposals would require legislative change to implement and there remain many complex issues to be considered; for example, how we can actively police an extended licensing system and keep burdens on industry to a minimum. We must also be mindful of wider issues of importance to the industry, such as taxation. But while tax does form part of the overall picture, it is right that we have focused exclusively on regulatory challenges. Taxation policy is a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer and though close liaison with HM Treasury will be essential in ensuring implications for taxation policy are properly considered, that need not prevent the regulatory proposals I have outlined being published for consultation.

The Department has also explored in some considerable detail the issues surrounding the application of the Horserace Betting Levy to overseas operators. I will be continuing this vital work—in conjunction with the levy board—with the intention of ensuring that all operators taking bets on British races pay to support British horseracing.

DEFENCE

Grob Tutor (11-02-09) Service Inquiry

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell): I wish to inform the House today of the findings of the Royal Air Force service inquiry into the accident involving two Grob Tutors operated by the RAF in South Wales on 11 February 2009. Tragically this crash resulted in the deaths of two air cadets, 14-year-old Katie-Jo Davies and her cousin 13-year-old Nikkita Walters, a volunteer reserve pilot Flying Officer Hylton Price (Wg Cdr Retd), and Flt Lt Andrew Marsh. Our deepest sympathies remain with their families and friends. I know that the RAF community was deeply saddened and shocked by this terrible accident.

The purpose of a service inquiry is to establish the circumstances of the loss and to learn lessons from it; it does not seek to apportion blame. The service inquiry was convened on the 12 February 2009 and has now presented its findings.

It found that on the morning of 11 February 2009 Grob Tutor G-BYUT and G-BYVN of the University of Wales Air Squadron (UWAS) No. 1 Elementary Flying Training School (EFTS) departed MOD St. Athan to conduct air experience flights (AEF) for the two cadets. Radar trace recordings show the flight path of both aircraft manoeuvring through different turns and heights until 10.46Z when both paths intersected and the crash occurred.

The service inquiry panel concluded that the cause of the accident was the controlled flight of both aircraft into the same airspace at the same time as a result of both aircraft captains being unaware of the position and proximity of the other aircraft. Either the pilots did not see each other, or they did not do so until it was too late. A number of contributory, probable and aggravating factors were identified including technical and procedural factors. The service inquiry panel made a total of 29 recommendations to address these factors. These are being implemented as soon as is practicable.

A redacted version of the inquiry findings will be placed in the Library of the House shortly. It will also be made available on the MOD internet site and can be found by following the link below:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/BoardsOfInquiry/

The Ministry of Defence will co-operate fully with the coroner who will hold an inquest in due course.

Defence Training Review Package 1

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Bill Rammell): I am announcing today an update to the key project timescales for the Defence Training Review Package 1 project. My predecessor announced on 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 457, that an investment decision was expected in spring 2009, with contract signature following approximately 15 months later. Plans have advanced considerably, but the work has exceeded the assumptions made in 2008 and hence the change to when the investment decision will be taken. It is not uncommon for a project of this complexity and size to experience delays, but the project is under constant review to ensure it meets value for money requirements. The benefits the project will deliver are very considerable and include: real savings against existing defence budgets over the next 30 years; enhanced operational effectiveness through the use of modern teaching techniques in a purpose built tri-service defence technical college delivered through a single PFI contract; the release of 1,200 service personnel for duties in the front-line commands, helping reduce pressure on operations; significant capital investment in living accommodation through the provision of 3,240 single accommodation and 483 married quarters; the delivery of further efficiencies through site rationalisation and efficient use of the estate, including the reuse of some accommodation for units returning from Germany.

I can announce today that the project is on track for an investment decision in the summer.

HEALTH

Basildon and Thurrock University NHS Foundation Trust

The Secretary of State for Health (Andy Burnham): Further to my statement to the House on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 855, I wish to update the House on the situation at Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Dr. William Moyes, chair of Monitor, the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts, has written to me about the progress being made at the trust. His letter dated 18 December 2009 has been copied to all local MPs and has already been placed in the Library.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has found and confirmed in its statement of 23 December that the trust has rectified the deficiencies over infection control that it had previously identified, and is "now meeting the minimum requirements in this area". CQC will be carrying out further checks on remaining areas of concern, looking particularly at the quality of emergency care, via unannounced inspections. CQC will be "checking closely to ensure everything is put right, and we will not stop until this is done".

Also, Monitor has advised that Dr. Foster has confirmed that the trust had achieved hospital standardised mortality ratios for the first six months of 2009 'within the expected range'.

However, Monitor has advised me that although there is evidence of material improvement, that there is still a lot to do.

The initial evaluation by the task force established by Monitor to support the trust confirms the need to increase the pace of change, and to address co-ordination of plans to improve services and the governance of the trust. Monitor will continue to maintain close contact with the trust, and with CQC, until it is satisfied that the trust has returned to full compliance with its authorisation as a foundation trust.

I will receive regular updates once Monitor's board has reviewed the trust's progress on a monthly basis. I will continue to provide these updates to the House.

JUSTICE

Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 2009

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 2009 received Royal Assent on 12 December 2009. On 5 January 2010, I made an order on behalf of the Lord Chancellor bringing the remaining provisions of the Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 2009 into effect on 6 April 2010.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 11 January 2010

HEALTH

Medical Care (Veterans)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Mike O'Brien): The Government are committed to ensuring that those who are seriously injured or who develop mental health problems while in the service of their country will receive the best possible care from the National Health Service for the rest of their lives.

The Department is announcing today a package of measures to support service personnel who have received serious injuries while on active service. I have worked closely with the Minister for veterans, my hon. Friend the Member for North Durham, (Mr. Jones), to put in place new arrangements with the Ministry of Defence for life care planning, together with a guarantee that all those seriously injured will receive an early and comprehensive assessment of their long term needs. It is intended that those needing continuing healthcare will receive high quality care for life based on a regular review of their needs overseen by an NHS case manager.

As committed in New Horizons–a cross-government vision for mental health, the Department is responding also to concerns expressed about the impact of recent and current deployments on the mental health of those in and those leaving the armed forces. The community mental health services currently being piloted in six mental health trusts are expected to continue their work beyond the end of the pilot period. The findings from the evaluation of these pilots will allow other mental health services to gear their services towards meeting the needs of veterans. We expect that all mental health services will make special provision for veterans during 2011-12.

In addition, we are providing grant funding for Combat Stress to work directly with mental health trusts to ensure that the services they provide are accessible to and appropriate for military veterans. The two Departments have signed today a tripartite agreement to facilitate the work that Combat Stress will be doing in partnership with the Government. The Department will be extending also its third sector strategic partner programme with the third sector to include the involvement of charities representing those in the armed forces, their families and veterans.

The major improvements in trauma care made in recent years by Defence Medical Services and the excellent work of the emergency teams in Afghanistan means that people are now surviving injuries which would have taken their lives in former times. Previously, the Department has undertaken to ensure that recent service leavers who have lost a limb while serving will–where clinically appropriate–be entitled to receive from the NHS an equivalent standard of prosthetic limb to those provided by Defence Medical Services.

I can announce today that this undertaking will be extended to all veterans who have lost a limb while serving, where clinically appropriate.

The Department will ensure also that a responsible director within strategic health authorities, together with primary care trust champions for the armed forces, are identified to advocate for them and to ensure that their needs are fully reflected in commissioning plans and service provision.

The Department will be working also with the Ministry of Defence to ensure an improved transfer of medical records to the NHS on retirement from the armed forces. This will facilitate GP awareness of the veteran status of new patients to ensure veterans receive their entitlement to priority treatment for any injuries or illness attributable to their time serving in the armed forces.

Finally, the Department is working with the military to develop clearer and easier routes into accredited NHS jobs to provide employment opportunities for those leaving the armed forces.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): Further to my written answer, 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1392w, the Home Office is publishing today "Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre: The Way Forward" as Command Paper 7785, which sets out the Government's proposals for the creation of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) as a non-departmental public body. Copies will be placed in the Vote Office.

The Government set up CEOP in 2006 with the remit of protecting children online and to help tackle child sexual offenders. This was seen as a new area of threat to children, and the centre was created to ensure that there was a law enforcement unit capable of responding to these threats. CEOP is currently affiliated to SOCA and, as such, has had operational independence.

Since its inception, CEOP has been a remarkable success. It has rescued over 500 children, and has led to the arrest of a significant number of people seeking to harm them. It has also developed the leading UK child internet safety website, "Think U Know", complemented by a comprehensive education programme in schools.

Having considered the work of the centre, and the ongoing online and offline threats to children, we believe that the centre should now become an NDPB. This will allow CEOP to develop further its work to protect children including tackling the issue of missing children, and to be able to have the powers to ensure that it is able to continue to protect children.

The Government are publishing these proposals today, and will bring forward the necessary legislation in the next Parliament.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 12 January 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing Ombudsman Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Ian Austin): I have deposited today, in the Library of the House, a copy of the annual report and accounts of the Housing Ombudsman Service (HOS) for the financial year 2008-2009.

The HOS is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government to investigate complaints from Registered Social Landlord (RSL–a housing association registered with the Tenant Services Authority) tenants and prospective tenants who remain dissatisfied having completed the RSL's own complaints procedure. The scheme is an independent complaints resolution mechanism and is administered by a private, not for profit company, the Independent Housing Ombudsman Limited (IHOL).

The report sets out its main activities and performance during the year, detailing the financial status of the service and providing casework statistics covering the last 12 months.

The statistics reveal that in 2008-09 HOS accepted over 3,800 new complaints for investigation, an increase of 21 per cent. over the previous year. In addition to complaints, HOS also responded to over 2,800 enquiries. Greater efficiency in investigations has enabled HOS to meet or exceed performance targets and to invest more resources in improving customer care and dispute resolution in the early stages of the complaints process.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I represented the UK at the Environment Council in Brussels on 22 December.

The council adopted conclusions on international biodiversity, focusing on EU priorities for forthcoming global discussions on the post-2010 biodiversity framework, which will lead to a new global target on biodiversity. Conclusions on the combination effects of chemicals, which highlighted the need for further work to assess the combination effects of individual chemicals, were also agreed.

The council adopted conclusions on the marine environment and the Baltic Sea strategy. These include an invitation to the Commission to develop legislative proposals to phase out and/or ban phosphates in detergents, starting with phosphates in laundry detergents for domestic use and, based on the evidence from a further impact assessment, beyond that.

Over lunch, Ministers discussed the outcome of the Copenhagen climate change conference. The outcome had not been what was hoped for, but progress was made, particularly on a temperature goal, financing and monitoring, reporting and verification; and I urged colleagues to maintain ambition and work towards a legally binding text. Environment Ministers will return to the issue at their informal meeting in Seville on 15-17 January.

The council held a policy debate on the proposed biocides regulation, during which the majority of member states supported the option of Community authorisation for certain biocides. I supported Community authorisation as a means of streamlining the system, and asked for careful definition of "low-risk" products; decisions on the use of certain biocides would still be needed in specific cases.

Under any other business, I raised the timber due diligence regulation, which is being handled by the Agriculture and Fisheries Council. I argued for the inclusion of a prohibition on the first placing of illegal timber on the Community market, and urged Environment Ministers to support strengthening the regulation in this way as it progresses through the legislative process. On biomass sustainability criteria, the UK supported the call from Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg for mandatory sustainability criteria. the presidency gave a progress report on the Commission proposal on CO_2 emissions from vans. Spain introduced the work programme for its presidency.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Foreign Compensation Commission

The Minister for Europe (Chris Bryant): Today I will lay before Parliament the annual report of the Foreign Compensation Commission for 2008-09. This is the 54th such report.

Copies will be placed in the Library of the House and the Vote Office. A copy will also be available on the Foreign Compensation Commission's website at: http://foi.fco.gov.uk/en/access-information/Ndpbs/fcc.

The report provides an account of the commission's activities during the financial year 2008-09. The commission was not engaged in any active distribution programmes during the period in question and operates on a care and maintenance basis.

JUSTICE

Civil Monetary Penalties (Response to Consultation)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. Michael Wills): I am publishing today the Government's response to the consultation paper "Civil Monetary Penalties: Setting the maximum penalty".

The purpose of this consultation was to seek views on the Government's proposal for the maximum civil monetary penalty that may be imposed by the Information Commissioner for serious contraventions of the data protection principles.

The consultation was launched on 9 November 2009 and closed on 21 December. At the same time, the Information Commissioner's office consulted on its draft guidance which explains the circumstances in which the Information Commissioner would consider it appropriate to issue a monetary penalty notice, and how he will determine the amount of a monetary penalty.

Of the 52 responses to the Government's consultation paper, 27 agreed that £500,000 was the correct maximum level, eight thought it should be higher, nine thought there should be a lower level and eight did not respond directly to the question but commented on other aspects of civil monetary penalties. The results show that a majority of respondents supported the Government's proposal to set the maximum penalty at £500,000.

Today I have laid regulations before Parliament to provide the necessary legal framework to bring the Information Commissioner's power to serve a monetary penalty notice into force. I am making one statutory instrument, subject to negative resolution, which sets the maximum penalty at £500,000 and the information that must be included in a notice of intent and a monetary penalty notice. I have also laid another order in draft, which, if approved by Parliament, will outline other matters in relation to civil monetary penalties, such as provisions for the cancellation and variation of notices, enforcement and appeals. This will be subject to affirmative resolution and will be debated in due course.

Copies of the response to the consultation will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and on the Ministry of Justice website at: www.justice.gov.uk. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Workplace Pension Reform

The Minister for Pensions and the Ageing Society (Angela Eagle): Today is a very important milestone for the delivery of workplace pension reform, including the setting up of NEST (National Employment Savings Trust), previously known as personal accounts. We are publishing the:

Government's response to the workplace pension reform "Completing the Picture" consultation;

Regulations that frame automatic enrolment, scheme quality, compliance and the other elements that combine to deliver workplace pension reform;

Regulations for NEST and establishing the corporation that will run the scheme, as well as winding up PADA in July 2010; and

Associated impact assessment.

These reforms deliver the final part of the package proposed by the independent Pensions Commission, and reflect a significant delivery milestone based on a broad consensus.

We have worked closely with stakeholders, employers, industry, and others to get here, and the changes created by these regulations will allow millions of workers to save for a pension with a new mandatory minimum contribution from their employer, many for the first time.

A guiding principle has been to establish the minimum level of effective regulation to enable pension reform to succeed without placing unnecessary burdens on employers or the pensions industry. We listened to stakeholders and considered their responses to our consultations. We have made a number of changes, which we hope will be well received. These increase flexibility and reduce some of the process burdens without compromising our headline policy intentions or undermining protection for individuals.

The regulations include the changes to the implementation plan, announced in the pre-Budget report, which are designed to help small and start-up businesses adjust to the new arrangements for workplace pension saving. Auto-enrolment will begin as planned in October 2012 and the reforms will be fully implemented by October 2017.

Also published today is the NEST order and the order to establish NEST Corporation and, as a consequence, the order that will wind up the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority on 5 July 2010.

We are currently recruiting the chair and members for NEST Corporation. We will establish the corporation this summer, as only the trustee can make certain key decisions necessary to complete the implementation of the scheme, for example, agreeing the statement of investment principles. As the policy and design of the scheme is established in regulations, we concluded PADA can be wound up at the same time, with the task of completing the operational implementation and the subsequent running of the scheme passed on to NEST Corporation.

Regulations published today:

The Occupational and Personal Pension Schemes (Automatic Enrolment) Regulations 2010

These set out the practical arrangements employers must make to automatically enrol eligible jobholders into a pension scheme, including the arrangements an individual must make if they wish to opt out of pension saving and the minimum quality standards certain schemes must reach in order to be used by employers to automatically enrol jobholders.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/draft/ukdsi_9780111490655_en_1

The Employers' Duties (Implementation) Regulations 2010

These set out the arrangements for implementing the new employer duties by applying the duties to employers over a period of time according to the employers' description.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20100004_en_1

The Employers' Duties (Registration and Compliance) Regulations 2010

These enable the pensions regulator to monitor and enforce compliance with the employer duties and safeguards.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20100005_en_1

The Public Interest Disclosure (Prescribed Persons) (Amendment) Order 2010

This amends an existing order to ensure that any detriment or dismissal a worker suffers as a result of making a complaint to the pensions regulator is unlawful.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20100007_en_1

The Pensions Act 2008 (Commencement No.5) Order 2010

Establishes the NEST Corporation from 5 July 2010.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20100010_en_1

The NEST Corporation Naming and Financial Year Order 2010

Sets out the name of the trustee corporation which will run NEST.

Sets the financial year of the corporation in line with Government's financial year–1 April to 31 March.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20100003_en_1

The NEST Order 2010

Sets up the framework for NEST, a simple, low cost scheme which employers can use to discharge their new duty.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/draft/
ukdsi_9780111490495_en_1

The NEST (Consequential Provisions) Order 2010 and

The Application of Pension Legislation to the NEST Corporation Regulations 2010

Makes some minor modifications to existing pension legislation in relation to the scheme through the NEST consequential provisions order and the application of pension legislation to the NEST Corporation regulations, for instance, that the scheme will not have member-nominated trustees, as the members' panel will represent the views of scheme members.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20100009_en_1

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20100008_en_1

The Transfer Values (Disapplication) Regulations 2010

Bans transfers of cash equivalent sums built up under other pension arrangements into and out of NEST, to ensure the scheme complements those schemes already in the existing pensions market.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/uksi_20100006_en_1

The Personal Accounts Delivery Authority Winding Up Order 2010

Winds up the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority from 5 July 2010. Transfers PADA's property, rights and liabilities in the main to the NEST Corporation.

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/draft/
ukdsi_9780111490501_en_1

Documents published today:

Available at: www.dwp.gov.uk/workplace-pension-reforms

Workplace pension reform–completing the picture. Government response to the consultation

This covers:

arrangements for implementing the reforms;

elements of the employer duty requirements not covered in the consultation of March 2009;

the quality requirements for defined benefit (DB) and hybrid schemes, and transitional arrangements during implementation;

powers to enforce compliance with the requirements on employers.

Workplace pension reform regulations–impact assessment

The impact assessment builds on the analysis presented in the regulatory impact assessments that accompanied the Pensions Bill 2007 and draft regulations consultation in 2009. It presents the overall impact of the reform on employers, individuals, the pensions industry and the Government.

Written Ministerial Statement

Wednesday 13 January 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Groceries Supply Code of Practice

The Minister for Further Education, Skills, Apprenticeships and Consumer Affairs (Kevin Brennan): Today the Government are publishing the Government response accepting the Competition Commission's recommendation to establish an enforcer to monitor and enforce the Groceries Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP).

The Government want to ensure that the GSCOP can be independently enforced, and have the important power to hear anonymous complaints. However, the Government are mindful of placing unnecessary costs on to business especially in a period of economic difficulty, which is why we plan to issue a consultation on how best to take matters forward.

We have also taken the decision to revoke the Land Agreements Exclusion Order following a recent public consultation resulting from a related Competition Commission recommendation. We will proceed to make the Revocation Order at the earliest opportunity but give businesses a transitional period to ensure that their agreements are compatible with competition rules.

Copies of the responses, have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available on the BIS website at: www.berr.gov.uk/files/file54194.pdf

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 14 January 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

East of England Regional Development Agency

The Minister for Regional Economic Development and Co-ordination (Ms Rosie Winterton): My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has made today the following announcement:

> I would like to announce a new chair appointment to the board of the East Of England Regional Development Agency (EEDA).
>
> William Pope will commence as chair designate, to ensure continuity from 1 February 2010 and take up post as chair from 1 April 2010.
>
> The appointment will be initially until 13 December 2012.
>
> The appointment has been made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments code of practice. I have placed further details of the appointments in the Libraries of both Houses.

CABINET OFFICE

Government Data

The Minister of State, Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith): On 25 June 2008 *Official Report* column 26WS, the former Minister for the Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, North (Edward Miliband), placed a report on Government data handling procedures before Parliament.

That report put in place reforms to strengthen the Government's data handling capability and management of risks to information. As part of this, the report committed to the publication of an annual report on information risk to be placed before Parliament. I am placing today the first annual report on Protecting Information in Government in the Libraries of both Houses.

The data handling report set out measures to improve the handling of information by putting in place a set of core measures to protect personal data and other information across Government including:

> the use of protective measures, such as encryption and penetration testing of systems;
>
> identifying the key individuals responsible for managing departmental information risk and information assets and setting out their responsibilities;
>
> mandating regular training for all staff involved in handling personal data;
>
> introducing greater scrutiny and monitoring through statements on internal control, which are scrutinised by the National Audit Office and through spot checks by the Information Commissioner;
>
> enhancing transparency, through the reporting of data loss incident in departments annual resource accounts and this first annual report to Parliament on progress and information risk as a whole.

The report published today lays out the progress that has been made to meet these new data handling requirements; how we will continue to drive improvements in our data handling and information risk management capability, and the challenges which lie ahead.

The report highlights the considerable work that has been carried out across government in relation to improving data handling such as:

> the roll out of enhanced data security training to over 450,000 public servants;
>
> the establishment of a network of more than 150 senior information risk owners at board level within organisations and over 9,000 people who are now responsible for ensuring that data is handled responsibly at a working level;
>
> the extent of the encryption of mobile devices including laptops and removable media with over 100,000 devices encrypted to date;
>
> penetration testing of ICT systems to protect systems from electronic attack and other threats (to date over 650 tests have been conducted), and;
>
> work to conduct privacy impact assessments across government with over 270 PIAs carried out on new projects handling personal data.

But the report also recognises that ensuring personal and sensitive information is treated as a valuable asset is a continuous task. It also highlights the remaining challenges and the work that is under way to build our information assurance capability across government.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

"Tackling Race Inequality: A Statement on Race"

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. John Denham): I have today published "Tackling Race Inequality: A Statement on Race". This document sets out the Government's approach to tackling the inequalities that people from minority ethnic groups continue to face and also sets out the increasing complexity of those problems. The statement was informed by the responses to the publication "Tackling Race Inequalities: A Discussion Document" and the listening events held in April and May 2009 which supplemented the written document.

Over the past decade, the Government have worked tirelessly to build a fairer, more equal society. A society where a person's chances and opportunities in life are determined solely by their talent and effort—not by their class, gender, beliefs, sexuality or their race. The Macpherson report in 1999 has helped achieve substantial strides towards racial equality throughout our society.

However, there is still much to do. We know that there are still areas of concern, especially in school exclusions and stop and search. But we must also recognise that Britain today is not the same place as it was a decade ago. Migration, the growing importance of community cohesion, and our better understanding of the way in which race interacts with class and other factors, such as religion and identity, have all changed the terms of the debate and made promoting race equality a much more complex challenge.

So we must recognise that we will not succeed in tackling racism without tackling all forms of discrimination, prejudice and inequality. We have to redouble our efforts to promote greater equality for all, and combine that with action to target the specific problems faced by particular groups. And we have to do that in ways which are fair, and seen to be fair, so that no group is neglected or overlooked.

This statement sets out how we will build on the remarkable achievements of the past 10 years. We now have a very strong legal framework to tackle racism and promote equality—this will be simplified once the new Equality Bill becomes law.

The emphasis in this statement is on enforcing those laws, particularly through the EHRC and through effective inspection of public services. We stress the commitment across Government Departments to promoting race equality. And we make clear that we will continue to promote targeted approaches to address the specific obstacles and barriers which hold particular groups back—such as the very successful Reach programme for black boys and young men. I am grateful to all those who have contributed to and commented on this statement. It reflects the concerns and priorities of a whole variety of individuals, community groups, and public bodies—and I look forward to working with them to deliver its ambitions.

Copies of the statement have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Urban Development Corporations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Shahid Malik): The Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, North (Mr. Austin) and I are today announcing the outcome of the quinquennial review of England's three urban development corporations (UDCs): London Thames Gateway; Thurrock Thames Gateway; and West Northamptonshire. We are also outlining new delivery arrangements that will take forward the regeneration and sustainable growth of these areas that would allow for a shorter lifespan for the UDCs than was originally envisaged, and where possible, the return of certain planning responsibilities to local planning authorities.

The three UDCs were established in 2003 and 2004 to secure the regeneration of their areas as part of the planned housing and economic growth in the Thames Gateway and Milton Keynes-South Midlands growth areas. At the time of their establishment, the Government committed to reviewing the UDCs after five years. The quinquennial review fulfils that commitment.

The situation of each UDC is very different, and the review has therefore been carried out in such a way as to allow different decisions about the future of each UDC. In each case the review has considered:

whether the UDCs have fulfilled the rationale for establishing them, and how well they have performed, including progress against the targets they were set, since they were established;

whether changes locally or regionally affect the continuing need for a UDC, or the extent of its powers;

the impact of the changing national context, particularly the establishment of the Homes and Communities Agency;

efficiency in the light of the Government's operational efficiency programme, which is looking at achieving greater efficiencies in a number of cross-cutting areas, including back office operations and IT and collaborative procurement; and

whether there are obstacles that if removed, or greater freedoms that if given, would enable the UDCs to operate more effectively.

The review included stakeholder consultation which began on 22 June 2009 and lasted 12 weeks.

We will publish a response to the consultation exercise on the Communities and Local Government website, make a summary of the review and its findings publicly available on request, and place copies of both in the Library of the House. Key findings common to each UDC are that:

there continues to be a need to secure the regeneration of their respective areas, and there continues to be a need for focused delivery arrangements to support this;

each UDC has a mixed track record of success so far, but this largely reflects that they have only been in existence for a relatively limited period of time. However, the UDCs have now started, or are on the cusp of delivering, some significant projects. We have been concerned that any proposed changes should not risk delivery.

planning performance of each UDC against major planning applications is below the national target, but this reflects the more complex characteristics of the case load they are dealing with, the relatively limited time that they have had to put in place new arrangements to handle planning applications, and that the UDCs do not have plan making functions. However, planning performance is now improving.

The conclusions for each UDC are set out below:

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (LTGDC) has performed well, working in an extremely complicated environment, handling a complex planning case load. The organisation has existed for a relatively limited period, but in this time it has put in place innovative planning processes, and is starting to deliver real and tangible benefit for the area through its investment in new homes, jobs, open space, transport infrastructure and its education and skills programme.

The proximity of the Olympic park to LTGDC's area means that the corporation has an important role to play in securing a long-term legacy in east London from the 2012 Olympic games. It is important that LTGDC is focused on this in the run-up to the games, and the Government have therefore decided not to make any changes to the structure or responsibilities of the corporation prior to the Olympics.

Following the games, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) will be wound up and new planning arrangements will need to be put in place to discharge the responsibilities currently undertaken by the authority. The Government intend to consider the future of LTGDC's planning powers alongside those of the ODA, and has today invited the London boroughs of Newham, Tower Hamlets, and Hackney to submit proposals for a new planning regime for the Lower Lea Valley. The Government will also consider how, in addition to the work that the Olympic Park Legacy Company will be undertaking, to best take forward the development and regeneration of the Lower Lea Valley.

We are also inviting the London boroughs of Havering and Barking and Dagenham to bring forward proposals for the future planning regime in their area.

Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation

The review has demonstrated Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation (TTGDC) to be an effective organisation well liked by its stakeholders and on the point of delivering real change. The Government are keen to build on and strengthen this success. Since TTGDC was established, the Government have created the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) which is already establishing a strong track record of strong and successful delivery of housing and regeneration. The Government have concluded that the economic development of Thurrock would be further enhanced if TTGDC were to become part of the HCA from April 2011, allowing the regeneration and development of Thurrock to benefit from strength in depth and regeneration expertise of the largest regeneration agency in western Europe. From that date, TTGDC's staff will transfer to the HCA and will operate in a manner similar to the arrangements the HCA already has in place in Milton Keynes. The HCA's work in Thurrock will continue to be based, as now, within the borough. An HCA board, and planning sub-committee acting as a local planning authority, will be established to ensure continued strong local leadership and stakeholder engagement. Over time, the HCA intends that all of its operations in Thurrock will be undertaken from the current TTGDC offices in the borough, and the opportunity to widen the reach of its Thurrock based team will also be explored.

In order to give effect to these changes, the Government will be bringing forward orders to formally confer TTGDC's planning powers on the HCA.

West Northamptonshire Development Corporation.

My hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, North believes that the regeneration of Northampton, Daventry and Towcester continues to be an important priority, particularly given the importance of Northampton to the economic strength of Northamptonshire, and growth across the Milton Keynes-South Midlands growth area. The West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC) was established to tackle the regeneration challenges in West Northamptonshire and there is recognition that it has had some significant successes and has put the foundations in place to deliver this.

There continues to be a need for a strong delivery vehicle to support this, and in particular a number of critical regeneration projects in Northampton, Daventry and Towcester. Over time we would like to see a new type of local partnership take forward and deliver the work started by WNDC. In the interim, there is scope for WNDC to become a more strategic delivery focused organisation, working closely with the Homes and Communities Agency and other partners.

WNDC has had a significant role in making planning decisions for West Northamptonshire. However, the time is now right to start to return these to local planning authorities. However, it is important that this is done in a proper and managed process, which supports the local planning authorities and does not distract from delivery. The Government will therefore provide for planning responsibilities to be returned on a staged basis, and will work with the local planning authorities to achieve this, with support from the Planning Advisory Service. The first stage will be to raise the threshold for residential applications handled by WNDC from 50 homes to 200 homes; to return other applications in the Northampton central planning area to Northampton borough council; and return waste and minerals applications to Northamptonshire county council. The Government intend this should take effect from April 2011.

The return of planning responsibilities and a reduction in the number of planning applications that WNDC will have to deal with will enable WNDC to play a more strategic delivery focused role concentrating on large housing and commercial developments across its area, but this will require greater partnership working between WNDC and the local authorities and delivery partners in West Northamptonshire, including the Homes and Communities Agency, with the opportunity for more joint working and delivery, with the potential for efficiencies and savings through shared services. These new joint working arrangements will provide the basis for moving to new non-statutory delivery arrangements, and the Government will invite the local authorities and delivery partners to work with WNDC and bring forward proposals for a new delivery model which might succeed WNDC in 2013-14. As part of the discussion of these proposals Government will review the timetable for the return of the remaining planning responsibilities.

The local authorities in West Northamptonshire will be key in delivering the next phase of this important agenda, and the WNDC board members nominated by the local authorities will have an important role to play. They, and the other board members, play a valuable role and we will preserve the number of local authority nominated positions on the board, and ensure that we strengthen the link between nominated members and the local authorities they represent.

As part of Government's operational efficiency programme, WNDC is already planning to achieve cumulative savings of around £4 million by 2013-14. Through re-focusing WNDC as a more strategic delivery organisation, with more joint working, delivery and shared services with partners, it should be possible to achieve further cumulative savings of at least £1 million by 2013-14.

The Government believe these new arrangements will maintain a strong focus on the important job of regenerating and delivering growth in West Northamptonshire, strengthen partnerships, provide improved delivery and joint working arrangements with efficiencies across delivery partners, as well as providing greater responsibility and accountability to local planning authorities for planning decisions, and provide the basis for moving to non-statutory delivery arrangements.

DEFENCE

Typhoon Support Contract

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Quentin Davies): I am pleased to announce that the Ministry of Defence has today signed a 10-year contract with Rolls-Royce, worth £865 million, for an enduring spares inclusive availability service for the Typhoon engine (EJ200).

This contract will see Rolls-Royce taking a major role in ensuring the availability of the Typhoon fleet to meet its standing and operational commitments and demonstrates the Ministry of Defence's commitment to partnering with British industry to get more efficient support for our front-line Typhoon fighter force.

The innovative partnering arrangement will help to sustain up to 3,000 highly skilled jobs throughout Rolls-Royce and the supply chain. Contracting for the long term will enable Rolls-Royce to consolidate its cost base and provide stability to its workforce while providing the optimised support service that the RAF requires.

Petitions

Tuesday 5 January 2010

PRESENTED PETITION

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (North East Cambridgeshire)

The Petition of persons resident in the North-East Cambridgeshire parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000692]

OBSERVATIONS

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Sri Lanka

The Petition of constituents of Hon. Dominic Grieve MP for Beaconsfield and others,

Declares that following the end of hostilities in Sri Lanka as announced by President Mahinda Rajapakse, more than 280,000 Tamil civilians, including at least 50,000 children, remain detained indefinitely in cramped, squalid military run camps in the north of the island in breach of international law; further declares that there is a severe lack of medical and humanitarian aid for the needs of these wounded malnourished and severely traumatised war victims; further declares that with the current flooding, spread of diseases and the onset of the Monsoon rains the conditions in these already dilapidated camps will worsen drastically resulting in further deaths; further declares that the detained Tamil people are being held against their will, without any freedom of movement, with the intention of making these camps permanent; further declares that the traditional lands of these people are being colonised and illegally occupied by the armed forces; further declares that it is suspected that thousands of Tamils who are not accounted for are being detained incommunicado by the Sri Lankan armed forces; further declares that the perpetrators of war crimes and breaches of international law in Sri Lanka remain free from prosecution.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges HM Government to press for the implementation of the following: the United Nations, International Red Cross and voluntary agencies must be given full access to care for and protect the civilians in the camps, and then help them to return to their traditional homeland in the north and east; a list of all those still alive and in custody should be published, so that families can stop searching for loved ones who are dead; any who continue to be detained as alleged LTTE combatants must be treated in accordance with the provisions of international law, and urgently given access to legal representation; accountability processes must be established to ensure that international aid is not diverted to purposes other than those for which it was given; UN monitors must be given free access to all parts of the island; there must be a full UN investigation into war crimes committed during the war.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Dominic Grieve, Official Report,* 1 December 2009; Vol. 501, c. 1079 .]

[P000442]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, received 23 December 2009:

Since the end of conflict in Sri Lanka in May 2009, the UK Government have remained actively engaged in working for an improvement in the humanitarian situation and for long-term reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities.

Our priority has been the return of the more than 250,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their homes as soon as it has become safe to do so. We have taken every opportunity both bilaterally and with international partners to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to resettle the IDPs without further delay. In recent weeks there has been significant progress in this regard, with over 150,000 IDPs having left the camps and resettling in their home areas. The announcement that IDPs would be granted freedom of movement as of 1 December is a positive step. Some IDPs have already left, and we believe the opening of the camps and granting real freedom of movement will enable the thousands still living in the camps to start to rebuild their lives. It is now imperative that humanitarian agencies are given full access to the IDPs so that they can provide them with the help they need both in the camps and in their places of return.

Since September 2008, the UK Government have allocated £12.5 million to support the work of international humanitarian agencies and NGOs so that they have been able to provide much needed assistance to IDPs. None of this money has been provided directly to the Sri Lankan Government. In order to assist the return of IDPs the UK Government have been funding de-mining agencies and transport, and will provide help to returnees in rebuilding their livelihoods. UK Government funds have also been used to help the International Organisation for Migration with a registration scheme that has issued ID cards to IDPs. This is already helping them to access services and entitlements.

We continue to work with the Government of Sri Lanka and other partners in the international community to ensure that the end of the conflict leads to sustainable peace. We have urged the Government of Sri Lanka to make progress on securing an inclusive political solution to address the underlying causes of conflict. Genuine reconciliation between Sri Lanka's communities will depend in a large part on the Government promoting and protecting the rights of all Sri Lankans–Tamil, Muslim and Sinhalese.

Reconciliation will also require a process to address possible violations of international humanitarian law committed by both sides during the conflict. President Rajapakse made a commitment to take such measures following the visit to Sri Lanka of the UN Secretary-General in May. We continue to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to live up to this commitment. The report issued by the US State Department in October into incidents during the recent conflict in Sri Lanka underlines the importance of establishing a credible process. We welcome President Rajapakse's decision to appoint an independent committee to look into the incidents cited in the US State Department's report. The credibility of the committee will depend in part on its independence.

7

Petition

Wednesday 6 January 2010

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

PRESENTED PETITION

Badman Report (City of York)

The Petition of persons resident in the City of York parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Hugh Bayley .]*

[P000694]

Petitions

Thursday 7 January 2010

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Exeter)

The Petition of persons resident in the Exeter parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000696]

Badman Report (Sunderland South)

The Petition of persons resident in the Sunderland South parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Chris Mullin.]*

[P000695]

Petitions

Monday 11 January 2010

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Coventry South)

The Petition of residents of the Coventry South parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Jim Cunningham .]*

[P000697]

Badman Report (Newcastle upon Tyne North)

The Petition of persons resident in the Newcastle upon Tyne North parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000701]

Badman Report (Stockport)

The Petition of persons resident in the Stockport parliamentary constituency, and others,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000698]

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Freedom Pass

The Petition of residents of Sutton, Cheam, Worcester Park and others,

Declares that the decision of the Secretary of State for Transport to cut the financial support for concessionary travel for older and disabled people in London is unfair to the 1.2 million people who use the Freedom Pass. Further declares that London Councils currently contribute a third of the cost compared to the parts of the country where concessionary travel is fully funded by the Government and that the cut in the grant would result in London Councils covering half of the cost of the scheme.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon Her Majesty's Government to drop the plans to cut the funding for the Freedom Pass for elderly and disabled people.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Paul Burstow, Official Report,* 9 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 469 .]

[P000625]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

The current statutory minimum bus concession provides free off-peak bus travel anywhere in England to older and eligible disabled people in England.

The Freedom Pass scheme is operated by London Councils on behalf of all 33 London Boroughs and is the largest and most generous concessionary travel scheme in the country. Some of the scheme's characteristics are at the discretion of the London Boroughs and London Councils is able to change these providing there is unanimous agreement amongst the boroughs and the changes do not contravene the statutory minimum required by legislation. However, as a minimum, the scheme in London must provide free travel on the London local transport network between 9.30 am and midnight and the period from midnight to 4.30 am on weekdays, and at any time at weekends and on Bank Holidays.

The bulk of the funding for concessionary travel is provided to local authorities, including those in London, via the overall local government formula grant system administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). Since April 2008 the Department for Transport has also been providing special grant funding to local authorities solely to meet the additional cost of the extended concession introduced at that time, which provides free off-peak local bus travel to older and disabled people throughout England.

Special grant funding was £212 million in 2008-09, has increased to £217 million this year, and will rise further to £223 million in 2010-11. This brings total spending on concessionary travel to around £1 billion a year. The grant has been distributed on a formula basis since its introduction in 2008. The formula used was devised in advance of the introduction of the new concession and was designed to direct money towards those authority areas likely to see the biggest increase in costs as a result of the move to all-England travel: tourist areas, regional hubs, shopping centres.

There is no evidence that the totality of the grant is insufficient but there is evidence that some authorities, including London, may have received significantly more than required to meet the extra cost imposed by the change in the statutory minimum bus concession.

We have been considering whether there is a need to reopen the grant distribution for 2010-11 in the light of reports that some authorities are experiencing shortfalls in funding from the current distribution.

The consultation, Local Authority special grant funding in 2010-11 for the national bus concession in England closed on 30 December. The consultation proposed a redistribution of the special grant allocations based on actual outturn data following the first full year of the new concession. This is the fairest way of objectively assessing the impact on all authorities across the country.

The only increase in costs London faced as a result of the improved England-wide concession was for the cost of non-London residents now travelling free on the London bus network. London's precise need for additional grant was not knowable in advance but it was expected that a sizeable grant would be necessary to meet the cost of concessionary passengers from the surrounding counties now travelling for free on the extensive London Bus Network. It is clear that there have been far fewer of these trips than was anticipated.

Although the new distribution, if taken forward following the consultation, will reduce London's grant for the coming year, there will not be a retrospective adjustment of allocations already made for 2008-09 and 2009-10 to recoup surplus grant funding received in those years. Therefore authorities that see a reduction in their grant as a result of the revised distribution in 2010-11 will [illegible] already benefited from two years of receiving more funding than was required.

London boroughs would still be left with significantly more funding than the actual burden the concession has imposed–around £30 million of grant against a likely cost in 2010-11 of around £10 million.

London Councils' own documents confirm that the actual cost impact of the new concession on London was only around £5 million in 2008-09 compared to a grant of £55 million. It is likely that the level of grant will outweigh the costs of the concession by a similar amount (around £50m) in 2009-10.

Following the consultation, if it is decided to proceed with a revised grant distribution for 2010-11, it will be the subject of a new Special Grant Report setting out the revised allocations. The distribution that is debated in Parliament will take into account responses received to the consultation and therefore may differ to the one proposed in the consultation paper.

Petitions

Tuesday 12 January 2010

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petitions presented to the House on Monday 11 January 2010 but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Sheffield, Heeley)

The Petition of persons resident in the Sheffield, Heeley parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000703]

Badman Report (Runnymede and Weybridge)

The Petition of persons resident in the Runnymede and Weybridge parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000704]

Petition presented to the House on Tuesday 12 January 2010 but not read on the Floor

Sheltered Housing (Sidcup)

The Petition of persons resident in the Old Bexley and Sidcup parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned for the future of Heron Court, a sheltered housing scheme in Sidcup, with provision for elderly residents and operated by London and Quadrant Housing Trust to which nominations are made by the London Borough of Bexley.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State responsible for Local Government to ensure that their local authority considers the six hundred persons upon their sheltered accommodation waiting list whilst empty places are retained in appropriate schemes within the Borough.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000705]

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing (Portsmouth)

The Humble Petition of Portsmouth City council Tenants, and others,

Sheweth that the Government have taken £8.7 million including £4.6 million this financial year from the rents of Portsmouth City council tenants for general Government expenditure; and declares that this will continue for the next 30 years at an estimated cost of £500 million,

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House will urge the Government to revise this trend so that the rent from Portsmouth City council tenants is spent directly for their benefit,

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Mike Hancock, Official Report*, 2 March 2009; Vol. 488, c. 700 .]

[P000320]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

Under the current Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy system, the Local Authority's assumed housing income is compared with the assumed cost of managing and maintaining its housing stock. Where the income is greater than the cost, the difference is recycled by the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy system to support those Authorities whose income is not enough to meet their costs.

When the subsidy provided by those Authorities that contribute to the system has not been enough to provide the subsidy needed by the Authorities with a shortfall, the Government have provided the additional funding needed to balance the system. When the national system has generated a surplus, that surplus has been taken into account in setting the level of spending on public sector housing provision.

The Department for Communities and Local Government and Her Majesty's Treasury have undertaken a review of the system for financing council housing. This involved extensive consultation with a wide range of organisations and individuals representing all of those with an interest in how council housing finance works.

The Review made clear that many people are not content with the methodology, by which assumed rental surpluses are re-distributed; with some Authorities contributing to the costs of others with assumed deficits..

In July, the Minister for Housing and Planning, my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey), set out proposals for a clearer, more transparent system that puts councils in control and gives them flexibility to respond to the needs of their tenants. He made clear that he proposed to dismantle the current HRA subsidy system and give local government real control over a major area of spending and decision-making.

The Government's consultation on these proposals closed at the end of October. Work is now going ahead with local government and with experts and practitioners in the professional bodies such as the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), to work through the financial, accounting, technical and practical aspects of a local authority self-financing system. Communities and Local Government aim to go back to the local government sector with a detailed offer on self-financing early next year.

Petitions

Wednesday 13 January 2010

PRESENTED PETITIONS

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

Badman Report (Richmond (Yorks))

The Petition of persons resident in the Richmond (Yorks) parliamentary constituency,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000711]

Badman Report (Solihull)

The Petition of persons resident in the Solihull parliamentary constituency and others,

Declares that they are concerned about the recommendations of the Badman Report, which suggests closer monitoring of home educators, including a compulsory annual registration scheme and right of access to people's homes for local authority officials; further declares that the Petitioners believe the recommendations are based on a review that was extremely rushed, failed to give due consideration to the evidence, failed to ensure that the data it collected were sufficiently robust, and failed to take proper account of the existing legislative framework.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families either not to bring forward, or to withdraw, proposed legislative measures providing for tighter registration and monitoring of children educated at home in the absence of a thorough independent inquiry into the condition and future of elective home education in England; but instead to take the steps necessary to ensure that the existing Elective Home Education Guidelines for Local Authorities are properly implemented, learning from current best practice, in all local authorities in England.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.

[P000710]

OBSERVATIONS

DEFENCE

Deepcut Army Barracks

The Petition of residents of Sutton, Cheam, Worcester Park and others,

Declares that the findings of the Army Board of Inquiry into the deaths of Privates Geoff Gray and James Collinson at Deepcut Army Barracks have not closed the matter and leave questions unanswered and no one accountable for what happened

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons calls upon Her Majesty's Government to sanction a full, independent, public inquiry into the deaths of Deepcut Army Barracks between 1995 and 2002

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Paul Burstow, Official Report, 9 December 2009; Vol. 502, c. 469 .]*

[P000626]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Defence:

The Government do not support the call for a public inquiry into the deaths that took place at the Deepcut Barracks. Nicholas Blake QC undertook an independent review into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of the four soldiers at the Deepcut Barracks. His report was published on 29 March 2006. A lawyer of Mr. Blake's standing was appointed to undertake the review to ensure that the process would be both independent and fair. He determined his own procedures and interpreted his terms of reference broadly. Mr. Blake was able to deliver a report more quickly than would have been the case with a public inquiry. He provided insights and conclusions that were both critical and challenging but of great value in helping us to improve the way we look after all our people.

In common with the House of Commons Defence Committee, Mr. Blake concluded that, on the basis of current evidence, a public inquiry into the immediate or broader circumstances surrounding these deaths is not necessary. The Government agree with this and in view of the extensive investigations that have already taken place, considers there is no Service interest in pursuing a public inquiry.

In his review, Mr. Blake made a number of recommendations aimed at improving the training environment and the care and welfare of young Servicemen and women. The Ministry of Defence takes its responsibility to ensure that personnel are properly cared for very seriously and has responded to Mr. Blake's recommendations. Our policy on the care of Under 18s was revised and reissued in the form of a guidance note to Commanding Officers in light of the Deepcut Review.

The training environment for new recruits has improved accordingly. This is illustrated by the way in which the Armed Forces training organisations are now subject to independent scrutiny by inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. These inspectors are separate to the Ministry of Defence, and their work supports us in identifying further areas for ongoing improvement.

I hope this explains the Government's position on this matter.

Petition

Thursday 14 January 2010

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning and Development (Cheshire)

The Petition of residents of Tarporley and surrounding areas,

Declares that Vale Royal Borough Council should reject the planning application reference 08-2866-FUM for the development of a continuing care community on land adjacent to Heatherways, Tarporley, due to the negative impact on the village and its amenities that such a development would cause.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to indicate to Vale Royal Borough Council that this application is not substantially different from the previous application 08-0779-FUM and so must therefore be opposed by Vale Royal Borough Council for the same reasons; and instruct Vale Royal Borough Council to place on public record that due to the negative impact on the village and is amenities such a development would cause, the proposed site is confirmed as unsuitable for such a development in the future.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Stephen O'Brien, Official Report,* 12 March 2009; Vol. 489, c. 550.]

[P000328]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

Under planning legislation, the granting of planning permission is the responsibility of the elected local authority. Successive Governments have decided that the day-to-day planning functions, such as formulating development plan policies, determining planning applications and enforcing planning control, are best carried out by the democratically-elected local planning authorities. When deciding planning applications, it is the responsibility of the locally elected councillors to represent the overall interests of their communities.

Local authorities must determine planning applications in accordance with the development plan for the area unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The Government cannot express a view on an individual planning application, because of the Secretary of State's appellate role in the planning system.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 5 January 2010

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the Commission plans to publish claims made under the additional costs allowance for 2004-05 by those who are no longer hon. Members; and if the Commission will make it its policy to publish additional costs allowance claims for the period 2004-05 made by former hon. Members who are now prospective parliamentary candidates. [308277]

Nick Harvey: This is a matter for the Members Estimate Committee; I am replying on behalf of the Committee. The Committee decided not to publish, as a matter of course, claims made under the additional costs allowance for 2004-05 by those hon. Members who left the House of Commons in May 2005. This was a pragmatic decision based on the difficulty of getting information to be published to the former Members for checking. The Committee has no plans to make it its policy to publish additional costs allowance claims for the period 2004-05 made by former hon. Members who are now prospective parliamentary candidates standing for re-election to the House. However, the House has responded to and will continue to respond to requests made under the FOI legislation for information about individual former hon. Members' claims.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Banks: Equal Opportunities

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent progress has been made on increasing the level of access of women to senior positions in the banking profession. [305003]

Maria Eagle: The Government are committed to increasing the representation of women in senior positions. The Government Equalities Office (GEO) sponsors the annual Female FTSE Report, which benchmarks women's progress on the boards of FTSE 100 companies. The 2009 report found that women make up 12.2 per cent. of directors across FTSE 100 companies, but only 9.3 per cent. of directors across the five banks in the FTSE 100.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is conducting a formal inquiry into the nature and causes of gender inequality and discrimination in the financial services sector. The EHRC is currently in the third stage of their inquiry, and is currently taking forward a series of round tables with the finance sector. In addition, the Treasury Select Committee will shortly report on their inquiry on women in the City. We will carefully consider the result of both inquiries.

In giving evidence to the Treasury Select Committee, the Minister for Women and Equality set out our intention to create a strong partnership with business organisations, trade bodies and recruitment firms to encourage companies to commit to their own internal targets and actions to increase diversity in senior positions. GEO will be holding an event in the spring with business to agree a practical plan of action.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government's Equalities Office spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in the Office in the last 12 months. [305676]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office has not spent any money on refurbishing its ministerial offices over the past 12 months.

Departmental Plants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government and Equalities Office spent on *(a)* cut flowers and *(b)* pot plants in 2008-09. [306090]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office did not spend any money on cut flowers or pot plants in 2008-09.

Equality Bill

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what representations she has received from Roman Catholic bishops on the potential effects of the provisions of the Equality Bill on Christmas celebrations. [308679]

Michael Jabez Foster: We have not received any representations from Catholic Bishops on the potential effects of the Equality Bill on Christmas celebrations.

There is nothing in the Equality Bill which will ban Christmas celebrations, or indeed, any other religious festivities. The Bill contains an Equality Duty that will require public bodies to think about different groups when planning and delivering services. However it will not require public bodies to interfere with anybody's religious celebrations.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the energy *(a)* rating and *(b)* band of each building occupied by the her Office was in each year for which figures are available. [307217]

Tessa Jowell: Information concerning the energy rating of my offices will be covered in the answers provided by the Minister of State for the Cabinet Office and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at DCMS, respectively.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many and what percentage of Parliamentary Questions tabled for written answer by her Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307530]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Creative Industries on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 670W.

Olympic Games 2012: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she plans to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee as part of the ceremonies the London 2012 Olympic Games. [308483]

Tessa Jowell: Planning for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee is at an early stage. We have had some preliminary discussions with The Palace to consider whether there may be opportunities to link the celebrations to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Business Secretary intends to make a statement to Parliament today on the Government's initial plans for the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many people were employed on the main Olympic construction site on the latest date for which figures are available. [308478]

Tessa Jowell: The latest information, released at the end of October in the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) Jobs, Skills, Futures newsletter, showed that at the end of September 2009 there were 7,270 people working on the Olympic Park and Village. Of this, there were 4,842 people working on the Park, 21 per cent. were resident in one of the five Olympic Host Boroughs, and 12 per cent. were previously unemployed. The ODA reported in November that there were 120 apprentices working for the contractors on the Olympic Park, over a third of the way towards its target of 350 apprentices by 2012.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307511]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office held one staff away day in 2005-06, one in 2006-07 and one in 2008-09. The event costs were £2,457 in 2006-07 and £2,660 in 2008-09.

Information on the costs prior to 2006-07 are not separately identifiable.

No ministerial away days have been held during the period in question.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what pay band his Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307559]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not have a Chief Information Officer position in its organisational structure.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many employees of his Department have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308523]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since this date all staff have joined the Office on secondment from their parent bodies, mainly the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice. They are required to report any convictions of criminal offences to their parent bodies.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission has issued on when electoral returning officers should commence general election counts. [308300]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has written to all Returning Officers, advising that it is entirely appropriate for them, as independent statutory officers, to decide to hold the count on Friday if they are clear that this is necessary to ensure an accurate result. Returning Officers have also been advised to consider any relevant local factors, such as geography, availability of staff and venues, the security of the ballot boxes and the volume and management of postal votes as part of the decision-making process. The next general election will, for example, be the first general election at which new security checks on postal votes will need to be conducted, and this will introduce an additional stage in the process.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission has given to electoral returning officers on political party representatives or counting agents taking tallies of validated votes during an election count. [308301]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that its September 2009 planning guidance for Returning Officers and the recently published full guidance manual for UK Parliamentary (Acting) Returning Officers advise that no part of the count should take place out of the sight of candidates and agents and that procedures should be transparent at all times.

The Commission recognises the important role carried out by candidates and agents in scrutinising the verification and counting processes. Candidates and agents may keep a tally of valid votes at the count.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what discussions the Electoral Commission has had with Ofcom on its proposals for the number of party political broadcasts allocated to minority parties. [308303]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that Ofcom consulted the Commission in June 2009 on changes it was considering to its Rules on Party Political and Referendum Broadcasts. The Commission set out its views in a letter to Ofcom on 17 July 2009, including that there should be more detailed guidelines for determining the number of broadcasts to be offered to qualifying parties. The Commission wrote again to Ofcom on 20 November 2009 during the formal consultation on the proposed new Rules, welcoming proposed changes.

Copies of these letters have been placed in the Library of the House and are available on the Commission's website at:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what information the Electoral Commission holds on the number of postal ballot papers handed in on polling day in each of the last five by-elections. [308306]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that returning officers are not required to keep records of the number of postal ballot packs handed in at polling stations on polling day. However, the returning officers for the last five UK parliamentary by-elections have provided the following estimates of the number of postal ballot packs handed in at polling stations on polling day:

Constituency	*Date*	*Number of postal ballot packs*
Glasgow, North-East	12 November 2009	270
Norwich, North	23 July 2009	180
Glenrothes	6 November 2008	125
Glasgow, East	24 July 2008	116
Haltemprice and Howden	10 July 2008	180

Dr. Pugh: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many electoral commissioners have been an electoral *(a)* candidate or agent and *(b)* returning officer. [308333]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that none of the current Electoral Commissioners have been an electoral candidate or agent, and one commissioner has been a returning officer.

Electoral Commissioners are appointed under the Political Parties, Referendums and Elections Act 2000 (part 1 section 3), as amended by the Political Parties and Elections (PPE) Act 2009. Before the passage of the PPE Act, the law disqualified people who had been actively involved in political parties in the previous 10 years from office as a Commissioner. The law now provides for four new Commissioners to be appointed following nomination by political parties, and without that disqualification. For the remaining Commissioners, the time ban period has been reduced from 10 to five years.

Electoral Commission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission with reference to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1439W, on elections: investigations, how long the Electoral Commission's investigation into 5th Avenue Partners took; and what steps the Electoral Commission is taking to improve the efficiency of its investigations. [308284]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that its investigation into 5th Avenue Partners took approximately two years and 10 months—excluding a 20-month period from March 2007 to November 2008, when it suspended its inquiries at the request of City of London police.

The Commission further informs me that since this investigation was opened, it has established strict time targets for key phases of its enforcement work. In 2009, the Commission met its targets of conducting 90 per cent. of initial case assessments within five working days, and 90 per cent. of case reviews within 90 days. The Commission also aims to complete 90 per cent. of its investigations within six months and following questions from the Speaker's Committee, has set a target from 2010-11 of completing all its investigations within one year. The Commission has instituted enhanced case planning and supervision to ensure that these targets are met.

European Parliament

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for South-West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission to what region the Electoral Commission plans to allocate the UK's additional European Parliament seat following the ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon. [308304]

Mr. Streeter: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has not yet recommended which of the 12 UK electoral regions should receive the additional European Parliament seat, and can only do so following receipt of a statutory direction from the Secretary of State for Justice.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on art works in the last 12 months. [306446]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its arm's length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, has had no expenditure on art works in the last 12 months.

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307955]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows what proportion of invoices submitted to the Northern Ireland Office, including its arms length bodies and the Public Prosecution Service Northern Ireland but excluding its agencies and NDPBs, have been paid within 10 days from October 2008 to November 2009.

Month	*Total number of invoices subject to prompt payment*	*Total number of invoices achieving prompt payment*	*Percentage processed within 10 working days*
October 2008	4,170	2,002	48
November 2008	4,328	2,554	59
December 2008	2,692	2,221	83
January 2009	3,122	2,466	79
February 2009	3,231	2,669	83
March 2009	3,611	2,968	82
April 2009	3,632	3,026	83
May 2009	3,357	3,074	92
June 2009	3,577	3,305	92
July 2009	3,268	2,911	89
August 2009	2,434	2,309	95
September 2009	2,920	2,797	96
October 2009	3,158	2,981	94
November 2009	2,658	2,555	96

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307512]

Paul Goggins: The following table provides a summary of the number of development days that took place in venues not connected with Northern Ireland Office (NIO) buildings from 1 April 2008. It is not possible (taking disproportionate costs threshold into account) to provide a breakdown of the number and cost of development days held in external venues prior to April 2008. The NIO's policy is however to ensure that development days have a clear business objective and are cost-effective. The Department places an emphasis on team development through volunteering, to meet our corporate social responsibility commitments.

Division	*Subject*	*Venue/location*	*Cost (£)*
Criminal Law	Development Event	La Mon Hotel, Belfast	245.00
Personnel Services Division	Development Event	Maynard Sinclair Sports Pavilion, Belfast	249.10
Financial Services Division	Development Event	Lorne House, Belfast	451.01
Business Improvement Team	Development Event	Lorne House, Belfast	240.00
Rights Elections and Legacy	Development Event	Centrepoint, London	93.75
Central Services Directorate	Business Planning Event	Stormont Hotel	2,446.50
Financial Services Division	Development Event	Lorne House, Belfast	474.88
Personnel Services Division	Development Event	Lorne House, Belfast	558.85
Northern Ireland Office	PA Development Event	Stormont Hotel	3,569.79
Fast Stream Cadre	Development Event	Lorne House, Belfast	446.30
Criminal Justice Directorate	Development Event	Lorne House, Belfast	1,116.72
Personnel Services Division	Development Event/Volunteer Challenge	Riverside Special School, Antrim	0
Central Services Directorate	Development Event/Volunteer Challenge	National Trust, Belfast	0
Forensic Services Branch	Development Event/Volunteer Challenge	Lagan Valley Regional Park	0
Criminal Justice Finance Branch	Development Event/Volunteer Challenge	MS Society	0
Civil Service Commissioners' Office	Development Event/Volunteer Challenge	Marie Curie Cancer Care Centre	0

It is not possible to provide a breakdown of conferences held in external venues attended by NIO staff in the past five years. The Department does not capture information at this level through financial coding, so to provide this would incur a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308833]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office has not spent any funds on conferences which were subsequently cancelled in any of the last three years.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 2006. [306424]

Mr. Woodward: Non-consolidated performance payments are made to staff in the senior civil service in line with Cabinet Office guidance and also to staff at grades D2 to A in line with HM Treasury guidance. These payments are made to reward performance throughout the previous reporting year. Under a separate scheme, non-consolidated special performance payments are awarded to staff to reward particularly meritorious contributions throughout the year.

The total amount of non-consolidated performance payments made to Northern Ireland Office staff since 2006 is as follows:

	£
2006-07	731,882.00
2007-08	[1]837,224.48
2008-09	859,913.50

[1] This figure does not include non-consolidated performance payments made by the Northern Ireland Prison Service to staff below senior civil service.

Departmental Training

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305890]

Mr. Woodward: The following table provides a summary of the training courses attended by Northern Ireland Office (NIO) staff from 1 March 2008 to date. The NIO policy is to ensure that training courses attended by staff support delivery of business objectives and are cost effective.

Course	Duration (days)	Number of staff	Cost[1] (£)
Community Builders Programme, New York	28	2	24,000.00
Leaders for Tomorrow, Harvard	21	2	17,108.18
Leadership in a Changing World, Harvard	6	1	5,691.75

[1] Costs include course fees, travel and accommodation/subsistence costs.

The Community Builders Programme was initiated as a confidence building measure out of the Good Friday Agreement. The aim was to bring key community activists and local opinion formers together with PSNI and Criminal Justice personnel in an environment which promoted partnership working and networking. Two staff attended the four week programme in March 2008.

The three week Leaders for Tomorrow programme at Harvard is designed to provide high calibre leadership development for public and private sector staff from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The programme is arranged through NICS Centre for Applied Learning. Each year, 48 people from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland attend the three week programme, with the NIO providing two participants in January 2009.

The one week Leadership in a Changing World programme is designed for senior leaders from the public and private sector. The programme was arranged through NICS Centre for Applied Learning. One member of the NIO Senior Civil Service attended the programme in November 2008.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the (i) subject and (ii) location of each away day was. [306404]

Mr. Woodward: Table A provides a summary of the development days for divisions and teams organised by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) in the last 12 months (from 1 December 2008). The Northern Ireland Office policy is to ensure that development days have a clear business benefit and are cost-effective. The Department places an emphasis on team development through volunteering, to meet corporate social responsibility commitments.

Table A

Division	Subject	Venue/location	Cost (£)
Central Management Unit	Business Planning	Hillsborough Castle	40.25
Rights Elections and Legacy	Development Event	Centrepoint, London	93.75
Police Operation Support Division	Development Event	Hillsborough Castle	464.00
Central Services Directorate	Management Event	Hillsborough Castle	568.70
Central Services Directorate	Business Planning Event	Stormont Hotel	2,446.50
Financial Services Division	Development Event	Lorne House, Belfast	474.88
Personnel Services Division	Development Event	Lorne House, Belfast	558.85
Northern Ireland Office	PA Development Event	Stormont Hotel	3,569.79
Senior Civil Service	Management Event	Hillsborough Castle	878.75
Civil Service Commissioners	Development Event	Stormont House, Belfast	171.75
Fast Stream Cadre	Development Event	Lorne House, Belfast	446.30
British Irish Secretariat/Visits	Development and Planning Event	Hillsborough Castle	221.00
Criminal Justice Directorate	Development Event	Lorne House, Belfast	1,116.72
Civil Service Commissioners	Business Planning	Stormont House, Belfast	87.50
Security Protection Division	Business Planning	Stormont House, Belfast	87.00

Table B provides a summary of the development days for divisions and teams organised within Northern Ireland Office agencies in the last 12 months (from 1 December 2008).

Table B

Division	Subject	Venue/location	Cost (£)
Youth Justice Agency	Corporate Services Strategic Planning	Lorne House, Belfast	415.00
Compensation Agency	Development Event	Castle Ward, County Down	3,542.00
HMP Magilligan	Roles and Responsibilities	Radisson Hotel, Limavady	690.00
HMP Magilligan	Business Planning	Radisson Hotel, Limavady	952.50
HMP Magilligan	Criminal Justice Order	Bushtown Hotel, Coleraine	440.00
HM Hydebank Wood	Business Planning	Hillsborough Castle	500.00
HMP Maghaberry	Business Planning	Rosspark Hotel, Kells	2,618.90
NIPS: Press and Communications	Business Planning	Stormont House	28.75
HMP Magilligan	Reorganisation of Prison	Conference facility at Portstewart Golf Club	550.00
HMP Maghaberry	Business Planning	Rosspark Hotel, Kells	1,760.00

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309063]

Paul Goggins: Staff in my Department book hotels through a central booking service using our appointed agents. The agent makes no charge for booking hotels which are on a central list of frequently used hotels. Such bookings make up 94 per cent. of all hotel bookings. There is a charge of £5.00 per booking for the remaining 6 per cent. of one off bookings for hotels not on the frequently used list.

Arrangements vary within the agencies which use either the core Northern Ireland Office contract or the Northern Ireland civil service central contract. The necessary information is held in a number of different formats across a number of locations. It is therefore not possible to answer this part of the question except at disproportionate cost.

Human Rights

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the government of the Irish Republic on human rights. [309073]

Mr. Woodward: I have had regular meetings with the Irish Foreign Minister during the past few months, at which we have discussed current issues, including the consultation on a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland which was launched on 30 November.

Prisons

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the capital expenditure on the prison estate in Northern Ireland will be in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [309172]

Paul Goggins: The planned expenditure on the prison estate in Northern Ireland in 2010-11 is £26 million.

While a similar level of expenditure is currently envisaged as part of the service's estate strategy in 2011-12, the available funding is not yet known.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total capacity is of prisons in Northern Ireland. [309173]

Paul Goggins: 1,775.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average daily cost was of detaining a person in prison in Northern Ireland in the last period for which figures are available. [309174]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Prison Service does not calculate the cost per prisoner but rather the average cost per prisoner place, which is published in its annual report and accounts.

In 2008-09, the average daily cost per prisoner place was £223.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total prison population is in Northern Ireland. [309175]

Paul Goggins: At 22 December there were 1,390 prisoners in Northern Ireland. This compares to 1,426 on the same date in 2008.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Solicitor-General how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to the Law Officers' Departments have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if she will make a statement. [307971]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments are committed to improving their systems in order to meet the Government's target of paying all invoices within 10 days of receipt. At present, approximately 90 per cent. of all invoices submitted to the Law Officers' Departments are handled by the Crown Prosecution Service and of these around 80 per cent. are paid within 10 days.

Full details on the performance of all the Law Offices' Departments against the Government target since October 2008 are detailed in the following tables.

Crown Prosecution Service

Month	Invoices paid within 10 days	As percentage of all invoices
October 2008	19,806	80
November 2008	17,845	85
December 2008	16,739	80
January 2009	18,453	77
February 2009	17,448	83
March 2009	24,195	80
April 2009	17,676	79
May 2009	[illegible]	84
June 2009	18,523	83
July 2009	19,665	84
August 2009	16,548	81
September 2009	18,316	80
October 2009	20,067	80
November 2009	17,961	80

Treasury Solicitor's Department, Attorney-General's Office and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

Month	Invoices paid within 10 days	As percentage of all invoices
October 2008	354	35
November 2008	459	56
December 2008	268	41
January 2009	397	43
February 2009	558	62
March 2009	628	51
April 2009	484	53
May 2009	380	52
June 2009	440	49
July 2009	415	48
August 2009	530	66
September 2009	293	47
October 2009	481	46
November 2009	370	44

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office

Month	*Invoices paid within 10 days*	*As percentage of all invoices*
October 2008	605	46
November 2008	337	42
December 2008	537	45
January 2009	628	45
February 2009	634	52
March 2009	917	59
April 2009	574	59
May 2009	375	48
June 2009	547	59
July 2009	535	50
August 2009	306	46
September 2009	382	48
October 2009	390	48
November 2009	417	51

Serious Fraud Office

Month	*Invoices paid within 10 days*	*As percentage of all invoices*
October 2008	386	36
November 2008	436	50
December 2008	560	51
January 2009	370	48
February 2009	531	50
March 2009	679	63
April 2009	510	48
May 2009	388	51
June 2009	522	58
July 2009	280	33
August 2009	413	61
September 2009	582	65
October 2009	384	46
November 2009	140	21

National Fraud Office

The Serious Fraud Office provides transactional services for the payment of all National Fraud Authority's invoices. The Agency is unable to disclose its payment performance as it uses the Serious Fraud Office's accounting system and NFA-specific payments cannot be differentiated.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Solicitor-General how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Law Officers in the last 12 months. [305675]

The Solicitor-General: In the last 12 months AGO has spent £3,694.00 on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Law Officers.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Baron: To ask the Solicitor-General which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in the Law Officers' Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305854]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is contained in the following tables.

Staff from the Attorney-General's Office have attended the following overseas conferences in the last three years:

Conference	*Travel and subsistence cost (£)*
OECD conference on anti-bribery	124.68
Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors in 2008—Singapore	2,055
Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors in 2009—Kiev	2,666.14

Treasury Solicitor's (Tsol) staff have attended the following overseas conferences in the last three years:

Conference	*Conference cost*	£ *Travel and subsistence cost*[1]
Challenges in adoption procedures in Europe ensuring the best interests of the child conference—a joint Council of Europe and European Commission conference in Strasbourg	490	—
Shared Services Conference in Madrid—work in connection with AGO shared services project	0	—
American Bar Association Antitrust Spring Meeting 17 to 20 April 2007	163	—
Maastricht on State Aids on 29 to 30 March 2007	571	175
European State Aid Law Institute—Annual Conference Brussels—May 2008	469	—
European State Aid Law Institute seminar in Luxembourg in December 2008	585	396.16
European Institute of Public Administration—State Aid to the Financial Sector—4 to 5 December 2008	718	—
Irish Society of European Law, Dublin	0	—
Symposium on ECJ, Berlin 2007	0	694.49
Bar European Group Annual Conference, Istanbul, 2008	0	995
Czech EU Presidency Conference on Implementation of EU law, 2008	0	282.76
Bar European Group Annual Conference, Madrid, 2009	0	191.62
The European State Aid Law Annual conference in Brussels, June 2009.	0	—

[1] The costs identified are those incurred by Tsol. It has not been possible to identify travel and subsistence costs in all instances within the disproportionate cost threshold. Additionally Tsol officials have attended conferences as speakers or as advisers to their clients where costs for these have been met by either conference organisers or clients and it is not feasible to identify these costs within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Staff from Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) have attended the following overseas conferences in the last three years:

Conference	*Staff numbers*	*Travel and subsistence cost*[1] *(£)*
Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors in 2007—Hong Kong	5	30,296
Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors in 2008—Singapore	5	22,883
Heads of Prosecutions Agencies Conference (HOPAC) in Canada in 2007	1	1,308
Eurojustice Conference in Slovenia in 2007	3	893.58
Proliferation Security Initiative—Operational Experts Group in New Zealand, in September 2008	1	704.71

Conference	*Staff numbers*	*Travel and subsistence cost[1] (£)*
IAP World Summit of Attorney's General, Prosecutors General and Chief Prosecutors in Romania in March 2009	1	143.15

[1] The costs identified are those incurred by Tsol. It has not been possible to identify travel and subsistence costs in all instances within the disproportionate cost threshold. Additionally Tsol officials have attended conferences as speakers or as advisers to their clients where costs for these have been met by either conference organisers or clients and it is not feasible to identify these costs within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Staff from the HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) have attended the following overseas conferences in the last three years:

Conference	*Travel and subsistence cost (£)*
Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors in 2006—Paris	2,916.50
Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors in 2007—Hong Kong	2,349.85
Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors in 2008—Singapore	4,866.57

Staff from the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) have attended the following overseas conferences in the last three years:

Conference	*Staff numbers*	*Travel and subsistence cost*
20 Years of Criminal Justice Reform—22 to 26 June 2007, Vancouver, Canada	1	£950
Data Recovery and Analysis—5 to 15 March 2007, Chicago, USA	3	£7,830
IAP European Regional Conference—17 March 2007, Den Haag, Netherlands	1	£94.32
Advanced Data Recovery—10 to 14 September 2007, Chicago, USA	2	£1,600
Global Conference on Economic Crime—22 October 2007, location not recorded	1	$150
ICLN Conference—10 to 14 December 2007, location not recorded	1	795 euros
System Forensics, Investigation and Response—7 to 12 April 2008, Dublin, Ireland	2	5,724 euros
Mobile Phone Forensics World Conference—8 to 10 May 2008., New York, USA	1	$300
Cybercop 202 Forensic Application—28 to 31 July 2008, Chicago, USA	1	No cost
Black Hat USA 2008 Briefings—6 to 7 August 2008, Boston, USA	2	£1,615.79
Techno Forensics—27 to 29 October 2008, Washington, USA	2	$990
Handheld Forensics—10 to 11 November 2008, Washington, USA	1	$2,395
POCLA Conference—26 June 2009, Amsterdam, Netherlands	1	£128
The 14th Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Prosecutors—6 to 10 September 2009, Kiev, Ukraine	2	3,200 euros

No conferences held overseas were attended by National Fraud Authority staff in 2008-09 when the Agency launched.

The Crown Prosecution Service is a devolved organisation. Although expenditure data on overseas travel are available, the Department has not kept central records of the reason for travel or which overseas conferences have been attended by CPS staff in the last three years. To provide this information would involve checking paper records across the CPS and would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by the Law Officers' Departments since 1 May 2008. [307795]

The Solicitor-General: The Law Officers' Departments have not sponsored any secondary legislation since 1 May 2008 that has created or abolished a criminal offence.

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office: Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Solicitor-General how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office's buildings attended by civil servants in the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307449]

The Solicitor-General: Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) is committed to providing a rewarding and stimulating working environment in which our employees can develop and excel. Consequently, RCPO organises a number of events to set strategy, develop and engage its employees, including:

senior managers' away days to review corporate performance and set future plans

all-staff conferences to deliver key messages, outline strategy and celebrate corporate successes

(a) Since 2005 RCPO has organised seven senior manager away days, at a cost of £39,286.

(b) RCPO has accounted for domestic conference charges as a separate item of expenditure from September 2007. Since that date staff have attended 34 conferences, including all-staff conferences, at a cost of £166,930.

(c) Staff from RCPO have also attended nine overseas conferences since 2005, at a cost of £60,988.

Trials

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Solicitor-General in respect of each case which went to trial and resulted in a judge-directed acquittal, what the original Crown Prosecution Service lawyer decision had been before it proceeded to trial in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [308849]

The Solicitor-General: A case can only proceed to trial in the Crown court where the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has first decided that a defendant should be charged and which charges should be brought, by applying the two stage test of the Code for Crown Prosecutors: that the evidence supports a realistic prospect of conviction; and that it is in the public interest to proceed with a prosecution. Additionally, after a defendant is charged, each case is subject to a process of continuous review to ascertain that both the evidence and the public interest continue to weigh in favour of a prosecution.

However, while this process is intended to ensure, wherever possible, that weaker cases are identified and dropped before reaching trial, it is neither possible nor desirable that every prosecution should result in a conviction. There will always remain a small number of cases in which essential facts only become apparent later in the process, and even in the course of the trial itself.

Both the volume and proportion of directed acquittals have improved over recent years.

The following table shows the number of defendants whose case resulted in a judge directed acquittal during each of the last five years, and expresses these as a proportion of all cases completed in the Crown court. The table also shows the reasons for which cases resulted in a directed acquittal. Information in this format is held only for the last four years.

Reasons for Judge directed acquittals

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*2008-09*	
	Volume	*Percentage of total completed cases*	*Volume*	*Percentage of total completed cases*	*Volume*	*Percentage of total completed cases*	*Volume*	*Percentage of total completed cases*
E10 Key witness does not support case	44	0.0	50	0.1	27	0.0	27	0.0
E11 Unreliable/lack of identification	160	0.2	144	0.2	129	0.1	122	0.1
E1 Inadmissible evidence-breach of PACE	10	0.0	13	0.0	5	0.0	9	0.0
E2 Inadmissible evidence-other than breach of PACE	19	0.0	9	0.0	15	0.0	5	0.0
E3 Unreliable confession	2	0.0	2	0.0	4	0.0	1	0.0
E4 Conflict of evidence	131	0.1	146	0.2	198	0.2	136	0.1
E5 Essential medical evidence missing	10	0.0	1	0.0	2	0.0	1	0.0
E6 Essential forensic evidence missing	24	0.0	8	0.0	14	0.0	12	0.0
E7 Essential legal element missing	271	0.3	228	0.3	239	0.2	212	0.2
E8 Unreliable witness or witnesses	198	0.2	182	0.2	188	0.2	114	0.1
E9 Key victim does not support case	121	0.1	96	0.1	76	0.1	63	0.1
Evidential reasons	990	1.1	879	1.0	897	0.9	702	0.7
P12 Effect on victim's physical or mental health	9	0.0	5	0.0	2	0.0	2	0.0
P13 Suspect/Defendant elderly or in significant ill health	10	0.0	4	0.0	4	0.0	2	0.0
P14 Loss or harm minor and single incident	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0	0	0.0
P15 Loss or harm put right	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
P16 Long delay between offence/ charge or trial	6	0.0	5	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.0
P17 Very small or nominal penalty	1	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0	2	0.0
P18 Other indictment/sentence	21	0.0	10	0.0	3	0.0	12	0.0
P19 Informer or other public interest immunity issues	0	0.0	6	0.0	14	0.0	6	0.0
P20 Caution more suitable	0	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
P21 Youth of offender	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
P22 Conditional caution more suitable	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
P36 Inappropriate to compel victim	0	0.0	3	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
P37 Inappropriate to compel witness	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0
Public interest reasons	48	0.1	35	0.0	32	0.0	29	0.0
U22 File not received from police-adjournment refused	12	0.0	7	0.0	2	0.0	3	0.0
U23 CPS not ready-adjournment refused	17	0.0	13	0.0	5	0.0	6	0.0
U24 Offence taken into consideration	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
U25 Victim refuses to give evidence or retracts	32	0.0	47	0.1	16	0.0	19	0.0
U26 Other witness refuses to give evidence or retracts	8	0.0	10	0.0	3	0.0	2	0.0
U27 Victim fails to attend unexpectedly	13	0.0	27	0.0	29	0.0	15	0.0
U28 Other civilian witness fails to attend unexpectedly	9	0.0	7	0.0	6	0.0	2	0.0
U29 Police witness fails to attend unexpectedly	7	0.0	2	0.0	1	0.0	0	0.0
U30 Victim intimidation	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.0	2	0.0
U31 Other civilian witness intimidation	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	0.0	0	0.0
U32 Documents produced at court	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.0	1	0.0
Unable to proceed reasons	99	0.1	115	0.1	71	0.1	50	0.0
033 Bind over acceptable	33	0.0	40	0.0	30	0.0	21	0.0
034 Acquittal after trial	126	0.1	148	0.2	132	0.1	149	0.1

Reasons for Judge directed acquittals

	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Volume	*Percentage of total completed cases*	*Volume*	*Percentage of total completed cases*	*Volume*	*Percentage of total completed cases*	*Volume*	*Percentage of total completed cases*
035 Other	109	0.1	39	0.0	27	0.0	38	0.0
Other reasons	268	0.3	227	0.3	189	0.2	208	0.2
Total Judge directed acquittals	1,405	1.5	1,254	1.4	1,189	1.2	989	1.0
Total unsuccessful outcomes	69,832	76.4	69,549	77.0	77,428	79.4	84,000	80.9
Total convictions	21,526	23.6	20,720	23.0	20,101	20.6	19,890	19.1
Total completed case outcomes	91,358	—	90,269	—	97,529	—	103,890	—

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has made any payments to protect the provision of supplies to UK forces in Afghanistan from Pakistan. [306477]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence contracts with industry for the provision of supplies to UK forces in Afghanistan from Pakistan. The Department has not made any payments to protect the provision of these supplies.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in searching for Osama bin Laden; and if he will make a statement. [307003]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have not received any reliable intelligence on the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden for a number of years.

Air Force: Military Bases

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 90W, on the Royal Air Force: military bases, what the *(a)* name and *(b)* rank of the US base commander is at (i) RAF Croughton, (ii) RAF Barford St John, (iii) RAF Menwith Hill, (iv) RAF Fairford, (v) RAF Welford, (vi) RAF Alconbury, (vii) RAF Molesworth, (viii) RAF Lakenheath and (ix) RAF Mildenhall. [309127]

Bill Rammell: The name and rank of the US base commander at the RAF stations listed as follows are:

Name and rank of US base commander	*RAF station*
Colonel Renner	RAF Croughton/RAF Barford St. John
Colonel O'Brien	RAF Menwith Hill
Lieutenant Colonel Price	RAF Fairford/RAF Welford
Colonel Cashdollar	RAF Alconbury/RAF Molesworth
Colonel Silveria	RAF Lakenheath
Colonel Manske	RAF Mildenhall

Armed Forces: Aviation

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of flights of *(a)* miltary aircraft and *(b)* aircraft chartered by his Department to and from Afghanistan have been delayed by more than six hours in each month since January 2008. [305744]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information on flights delayed by more than six hours is provided in the following table.

	Number of military flights	*Percentage of military flights*	*Number of civilian flights*	*Percentage of civilian flights*
2008				
January	1	2.9	5	12.8
February	0	0	0	0
March	10	22.7	0	0
April	4	9.5	2	5.7
May	1	2.5	3	8.6
June	1	2.4	2	6.1
July	10	22.7	5	16.7
August	24	54.5	1	2.7
September	10	22.7	1	2.9
October	9	15.5	0	0
November	7	15.2	1	3.2
December	10	20	1	2.4
2009				
January	15	24.2	1	5
February	24	41.4	3	4.6
March	20	24.4	2	2.7
April	10	15.1	0	0
May	1	1.8	8	6.3
June	6	10	3	4.1
July	8	12.9	0	0
August	2	3	2	2.5
September	9	10	12	11.3
October	9	10	2	2.4
November	9	13.6	10	7.8
December	0	0	2	8.3
Total	200	14.3	66	5

Notes:

1. Up to 10 December 2009

2. The figures for military aircraft only include passenger flights as delays to freight flights are not recorded. The charter flight figures are only for freight.

Armed Forces: Bomb Disposal

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what potential sites are proposed for the recently announced bomb disposal training centre. [308627]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Wimbish in Essex is being considered as the potential location for the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Task Force training facility announced by the Prime Minister on 14 December 2009.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many bomb disposal robots *(a)* have been ordered in each of the last five years and *(b)* are currently on order. [308629]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I am withholding details on the number of bomb disposal robots ordered over the last five years and currently on order, as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of the armed forces' TALON bomb disposal robots have been damaged due to human error in the last 12 months. [308631]

Bill Rammell: No TALON bomb disposal robots have been damaged by human error in the last 12 months.

Armed Forces: Officers

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* commodores, *(b)* brigadiers and *(c)* air commodores there were in each year since 1997. [308762]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of Commodores, Brigadiers and Air Commodores each year since 1997 can be found in the following table.

	Naval	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*	*Total*
1997	82	170	95	350
1998	90	180	92	360
1999	99	180	92	370
2000	92	180	98	370
2001	95	190	96	380
2002	94	180	90	370
2003	95	180	88	360
2004	97	180	90	370
2005	83	180	92	350
2006	80	180	90	350
2007	75	180	95	350
2008	79	180	94	350
2009	84	190	90	360

Naval Service figures include Royal Navy commodores and Royal Marines brigadiers.

Data provided for 2007 to 2009 should be considered provisional due to the ongoing validation of data from the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System. Figures above 100 have rounded to the nearest 10.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on attendance at Officer Training Corps of the in-year savings announced earlier in 2009. [307238]

Bill Rammell: Following a reduction in the University Officer Training Corps (UOTC) budget in October, cadet pay has been suspended until April 2010. This was one of a number of budgetary measures taken this year by the Army to enable resources to be better focused on the MOD's main effort in Afghanistan.

A number of UOTC commanders have reported reduced attendance since the suspension of cadet pay. Attendance levels normally drop away at this time of year, as first year undergraduates decide which activities are for them. We will have a clearer picture of students' intentions once they have returned from their Christmas break. Our intention is to restore cadet pay in the next financial year and we hope that the majority of officer cadets will be able to ride out this temporary difficulty.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the attendance levels have been at Officers Training Corps for each unit as a percentage of *(a)* establishment and *(b)* actual strength in each of the last 12 months. [307239]

Bill Rammell: The attendance levels at each unit of the Officer Training Corps, in each of the last 12 months, as a percentage of establishment and actual strength, is shown in the following tables:

Percentage

	January		*February*		*March*		*April*		*May*		*June*	
Unit	*Estab*	*Actual*	*Estab*	*Actual*	*Estab*	*Actual*	*Estab*	*Actual*	*Estab*	*Actual*	*Estab*	*Actual*
Aberdeen	57	41	75	58	69	57	62	53	54	50	61	61
Birmingham	136	88	142	92	75	48	26	17	51	33	152	99
Bristol	62	41	67	45	75	52	44	31	30	21	109	77
Cambridge	54	53	53	52	39	46	22	26	17	23	25	34
East Midlands	0	0	68	51	69	61	41	37	35	33	17	16
Edinburgh	48	31	56	36	51	32	11	6	42	35	51	47
Exeter	28	21	51	39	57	43	6	5	38	31	33	31
Glasgow and Strathclyde	86	78	85	77	77	72	71	70	0	0	77	79
Leeds	78	43	120	71	91	56	9	6	47	33	51	36
Liverpool	71	45	76	61	67	58	55	52	42	40	31	30
London	65	57	62	57	40	61	24	36	26	40	61	92
Manchester and Salford	57	37	77	58	76	60	51	39	36	28	65	56
Northumbrian	96	49	112	58	126	68	110	60	83	43	89	49
Oxford	60	31	54	28	49	26	55	29	39	20	38	20
Queens	30	21	81	54	81	54	83	62	36	27	83	70

												Percentage
	January		February		March		April		May		June	
Unit	Estab	Actual	Estab	Actual	Estab	Actual	Estab	Actual	Estab	Actual	Estab	Actual
Sheffield	57	27	78	37	88	54	58	37	51	33	94	63
Southampton	42	33	65	63	60	61	38	39	33	35	27	28
Tayforth	97	43	136	60	125	57	109	52	107	50	93	45
Wales	90	64	100	70	101	70	68	51	59	47	103	85

												Percentage
	July		August		September		October		November		December	
Unit	Estab	Actual	Estab	Actual	Estab	Actual	Estab	Actual	Estab	Actual	Estab	Actual
Aberdeen	25	28	4	5	22	28	75	72	58	56	46	45
Birmingham	152	99	30	19	46	30	36	32	88	83	74	72
Bristol	109	77	11	8	14	11	47	48	50	33	39	26
Cambridge	37	51	20	28	11	15	67	99	59	51	53	51
East Midlands	75	74	0	0	46	47	48	32	68	54	0	0
Edinburgh	11	10	8	7	101	57	42	25	34	21	13	8
Exeter	24	25	9	9	0	0	30	39	35	55	44	73
Glasgow and Strathclyde	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	69	76	65	65	56
Leeds	117	88	47	41	38	33	105	92	91	43	72	47
Liverpool	88	84	0	0	0	0	92	64	106	74	88	64
London	55	83	9	18	31	60	103	85	98	81	69	60
Manchester and Salford	15	13	37	38	38	39	75	49	62	48	0	0
Northumbrian	65	37	86	49	24	14	54	33	159	63	133	53
Oxford	74	47	34	22	33	41	76	95	61	44	48	36
Queens	0	0	71	70	36	43	33	44	29	44	28	28
Sheffield	33	22	33	22	43	31	109	69	80	54	80	62
Southampton	0	0	0	0	0	0	91	85	75	71	63	59
Tayforth	31	16	30	20	113	79	138	93	125	66	80	46
Wales	103	87	25	21	70	60	109	68	96	56	64	37

These figures are average monthly figures, collated by the OTC units. December figures are as at 11 December. Actual activity levels vary from month to month and are typically low during exam periods and holidays.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what categories of service personnel train at the Officer Training Corps; and which of those categories *(a)* receive and *(b)* do not receive payment while undertaking such training. [307272]

Bill Rammell: The categories of service personnel involved in training at the Officer Training Corps are as follows:

Permanent Staff Regular Army staff;

Permanent Staff Group A Territorial Army (TA) staff; and

Territorial Army (TA) Group B Officer Cadets (Students).

Following the temporary in-year savings measures introduced in October 2009, the only categories currently receiving pay are Regular Army personnel, group A TA staff and those group B officer cadets who are TA second lieutenant instructors delivering military leadership development programme levels 1, 2 and 3 training. Bursars are receiving their bursars grants but are unpaid for officer cadet activity.

All remaining officer cadets have temporarily had their pay suspended.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 801-4, on the future defence programme, what assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* the Defence Training Review and *(b)* RAF St Athan of implementation of the measures announced in the statement. [309271]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: My oral statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 801-4 does not impact upon the Defence Training Review and RAF St. Athan.

Armed Forces: Weapons

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Javelin missiles, *(b)* multiple rocket launcher rockets and *(c)* mortar rounds have been fired in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost is of each missile fired in each category. [306745]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The following table sets out the number of Javelin missiles, guided multiple rocket launcher system rockets and mortar rounds that have been fired on operations and in training in the last 12 months:

			Mortar		
	Javelin[1]	GMLRS[1,2]	81mm	60mm[1]	51mm
2008					
December	70	50	8300	—	—
2009					
January	80	40	21200	500	—
February	55	25	18100	100	—

	Javelin[1]	*GMLRS*[1 2]	*Mortar* *81mm*	*Mortar* *60mm*[1]	*Mortar* *51mm*
March	35	45	17700	1000	—
April	35	60	6800	—	—
May	50	45	11200	200	—
June	30	45	14000	200	300
July	50	20	7900	100	—
August	70	40	6800	300	—
September	15	20	7800	300	200
October	55	15	11000	—	300
November	35	5	14800	800	—

[1] These rounds of ammunition are procured from overseas and therefore the costs are subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

[2] Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System.

Note:

Figures have been taken from a variety of sources, including operational records, and accuracy cannot therefore be fully guaranteed. The figures do not necessarily relate to when fired, but often when ordered. All figures have been rounded to the nearest five in the case of Javelin and GMLRS and 100 for mortar rounds.

The approximate current cost per Guided Multiple Launch Rocket is £68,000.

The Javelin missiles fired in the last 12 months have been procured under two different contracts. The average cost of each missile would have been approximately £49,000.

The cost of 51mm mortars ranges from approximately £80 to approximately £160 depending on the variant fired. The cost of 60mm mortars ranges from approximately £185 to approximately £640 depending on the variant fired. We do not hold data for the expenditure of 60mm mortars in all months. The cost of 81mm mortars ranges from approximately £190 to approximately £890 depending on the variant fired.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on defence in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [308662]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD's total expenditure (outturn), in near cash and non-cash, including and excluding the cost of all military operations for each year since 2001-02 is as follows:

£000

		2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Total MOD outturn	Near cash	24,511,054	26,930,775	27,795,583	28,876,022	29,635,000	31,245,735	31,820,049	35,568,736
	Non-cash	13,483,254	21,180,812	12,734,259	10,233,569	11,664,951	9,943,505	11,723,214	10,080,378
	Total	37,994,308	48,111,587	40,529,842	39,109,591	41,299,951	41,189,240	43,543,263	45,649,114
Less military operations	Near cash	550,597	1,381,971	1,349,132	1,039,093	1,201,921	1,731,368	2,744,977	3,696,650
	Non-cash	35,488	54,148	144,298	72,930	65,170	65,250	286,938	394,554
	Total	586,085	1,436,119	1,493,430	1,112,023	1,267,091	1,796,618	3,031,915	4,091,204
Net MOD outturn	Near cash	23,960,457	25,548,804	26,446,451	27,836,929	28,433,079	29,514,367	29,075,072	31,872,086
	Non-cash	13,447,766	21,126,664	12,589,961	10,160,639	11,599,781	9,878,255	11,436,276	9,685,824
	Total	37,408,223	46,675,468	39,036,412	37,997,568	40,032,860	39,392,622	40,511,348	41,557,910

The Department did not produce full accounts until the introduction of Resource Accounting and Budgeting for the financial year 2001-02. Prior to this, the Department's outturn was reported in the end of year 'Appropriations Accounts and Estimates Reports'. Copies are placed in the Library of the House. Appropriations accounts do not, however, separately identify the cost of operations or the costs of the security and intelligence services, and that information is not held centrally. The figures for this current financial year will be available in the annual report usually published in July.

The only way to compare historic MOD defence spending is through the near cash element of the budget, as laid out in the spending review letters, but this does not include all aspects of the MOD spend, e.g. depreciation and cost of capital.

1997-98 MOD near cash budget was £21,800 million.

2009-10 MOD near cash budget is £31,921 million.

2010-11 MOD near cash budget is planned to be £33,328 million.

Departmental Air Travel

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the accumulation and use of air miles by his Department's personnel flying at public expense. [308487]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Crown servants travelling by air on MOD business, paid for from public funds, must not make private use of frequent flyer bonuses that arise as a result of that expenditure, for example air miles. They may, however, collect such bonuses to enable them to use the associated benefits in respect of official travel. The receipt of any benefits accruing from official travel must be recorded in hospitality books.

These rules apply to all MOD civilian staff and service personnel, described collectively as "Crown servants".

Departmental Pay

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* full-time employees of his Department with 25 years or more service and *(b)* full-time employees of his Department earn £15,000 per annum or less. [307909]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total number of full-time employees in the Department with 25 years or more service is 9,971 of whom 144 earn less than £15,000.

The total number of full-time employees in the Department who earn £15,000 or less is 5,185.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the 2009 Pre-Budget Report affects his Department's spending plans for *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; and if he will publish an updated version of Table 1.2 on pages 20 and 21 of his Department's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09. [309066]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Pre-budget Report (PBR) did not change the Ministry of Defence's budget up to the end of the current spending review period in 2010-11. The only change announced at the PBR that will affect the MOD's spending plan is the 0.5 per cent. further increase in national insurance, which will cost approximately £35 million per annum from 2011-12.

We currently have no plan to reissue the total departmental spending table until the next publication of the Departmental Annual Report and Accounts in July 2010.

Future Large Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings his Department has had with EADS on renegotiating the initial contract for the Airbus A400M. [308623]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Officials from the UK, along with those from partner nations and OCCAR, have participated in a range of meetings with both EADS and Airbus Military and I have myself had several meetings with them.

As these discussions are ongoing, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on them at this stage.

Germany: British Forces Post Office

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding will be provided to the British Forces Post Office in Germany in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2010, *(c)* 2011 and *(d)* 2012. [304327]

Bill Rammell: The British Forces Post Office (BFPO) mail service to and within Germany comprises two services.

The first is a six day a week return contracted road container service from BFPO Northolt to Dulmen, which takes outward mail from Northolt and returns UK-addressed mail from Dulmen. This service is controlled and funded by BFPO, at a cost of £530,000 per annum.

The second service, within Germany, comprises the distribution of outward mail from Dulmen to forces post offices and to units, and the collection of inward mail from forces post offices for delivery to Dulmen.

The forecast costs to provide the postal support role, including personnel, equipment and infrastructure costs are provided as follows.

Financial year	*Approximate cost (£)*
2009-10	5,293,000
2010-11	5,402,000
2011-12	5,509,000
2012-13	5,617,000

Gibraltar: Navy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Royal Navy warships are stationed in British Gibraltar territorial waters. [309100]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 8W.

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309057]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each security classification have been submitted to the Iraq Inquiry by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [309364]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 840W. My Department is in the process of providing the Iraq Inquiry with all the documents and electronic information it holds that has been requested to date. This information spans every level of Government security classification.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry: Reserve Forces

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many reservists from each branch have *(a)* been called up and *(b)* volunteered to assist with the Iraq Inquiry; [309236]

(2) what length of time the reservists appointed to assist the Iraq Inquiry are expected to serve in that role; [309237]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* accommodate in military barracks the reservists aiding the Iraq Inquiry and *(b)* reimburse their living costs. [309238]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No reservists have been deployed to assist the Iraq Inquiry.

Iraq: Oil

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK armed forces personnel are involved in the protection of Iraqi oil facilities. [308617]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: To the nearest 50, there are 200 UK armed forces personnel involved in the protection of Iraq's off-shore oil platforms. No UK personnel are involved in defending oil facilities on land.

The precise number of personnel in theatre fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces, visits and a range of other factors. We do not therefore publish actual figures for personnel deployed in theatre.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions UK armed forces have had to engage hostile forces in the defence of Iraqi oil facilities. [308618]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq: Prisoners

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Statement by the Secretary of State of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 396, on records of detention (review conclusions), what recent legal advice his Department has received on its responsibilities to the two individuals detained by British forces in Iraq in 2004 and transferred to the Bagram Theater Internment Facility in Afghanistan. [307061]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department takes legal advice where appropriate and necessary. Any such advice is subject to legal professional privilege because communications between lawyers and their clients are confidential.

Met Office

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings are planned for the Met Office Review Group; whether the group plans to consider the Cabinet Office Asset Portfolio; and if he will make a statement. [308394]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Met Office Review Group plans to meet regularly over the coming months to continue the work of the Operational Efficiency Programme review as outlined in the Asset Portfolio.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department next plan to meet the Shareholder Executive to discuss the future of the Met Office; and if he will make a statement. [308395]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Shareholder Executive officials are represented on the Met Office Review Group, which next plans to meet in early 2010. There are no plans for MOD Ministers to meet Shareholder Executive officials to discuss the Met Office.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the composition of the Met Office Review Group will be changed in consequence of the publication of the Cabinet Office's Asset Portfolio; and if he will make a statement. [308396]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are no plans to change the composition of the Met Office Review Group.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the publication of the Cabinet Office's Asset Portfolio on the work of the Met Office Review Group; whether any consequential changes will be made to the terms of reference of the Met Office Review Group; and if he will make a statement. [308397]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Asset Portfolio gave an update on the findings of the Met Office Operational Efficiency Programme Review to date, and set a direction for future work which will be taken forward by the Review Group over the coming months.

There are no plans to change the terms of reference of the Met Office Review Group.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department plan to meet representatives from private sector weather companies to discuss the recent publication of the Cabinet Office's Asset Portfolio; and if he will make a statement. [308398]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are no current plans for Ministry of Defence Ministers or officials to meet representatives from private sector weather companies to discuss the recent publication of the Asset Portfolio.

Shareholder Executive officials have met with private sector weather companies as part of the Met Office Operational Efficiency Programme review.

Military Aircraft: Deployment

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where will the Joint Force Harrier be deployed to when RAF Cottesmore closes. [309143]

Bill Rammell: As announced by the Secretary of State for Defence on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 803, RAF Cottesmore will close and the Harrier Force will be consolidated at RAF Wittering.

Military Aircraft: Procurement

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects on the economy of the procurement of 24 Chinook helicopters from Boeing. [308608]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The procurement of the new Chinook replaces the planned future medium helicopter competition, for which there was no guaranteed UK work content.

The Chinook programme provides significant through-life opportunities for UK industry, for example these new aircraft, as with our current Chinook fleet, will be supported onshore. Furthermore, we anticipate that much of the investment required to deliver other elements of the new Rotary Wing Strategy announced on 15 December 2009, such as the modification of Merlin helicopters, will be made in the UK, supporting UK jobs, and sustaining key onshore skills as well as delivering value for money.

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on military aircraft procured from BAE Systems since 1997. [308659]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Complete information on the costs of aircraft procured from BAE Systems since 1997 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Such information as is available, relating to initial procurement costs, is contained in the following table. The table excludes the costs of enhancements and modifications to aircraft originally procured before 1997.

Aircraft	*Procurement cost (£ million)*
Nimrod MRA4	[1]2,932
Hawk T2	[2]557

[1] Costs to date of development and manufacture programme.
[2] Costs to date of design and development contract and manufacture contract.

Since 1997, MOD has also made payments for work performed by BAE Systems on the Typhoon aircraft. The Typhoon is procured by the NATO Eurofighter and Tornado Management Agency (NETMA), which manages the programme and funding arrangements on behalf of the four partner nations (UK, Germany, Italy and Spain). Payments for work on Typhoon are made to NETMA. Information on monies paid for work performed by BAE Systems therefore is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, total expenditure on the Typhoon acquisition programme since 1997 is £9.3 billion.

Military Bases: Edinburgh Castle

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next plans to meet representatives of Historic Scotland to discuss basing arrangements at Edinburgh Castle. [308726]

Bill Rammell: My officials met with Historic Scotland on 17 December 2009 to discuss both the Army's and Historic Scotland's development needs at Edinburgh castle and areas of mutual interest. Such meetings take place roughly every six months.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to downsize or close the military garrison at Edinburgh Castle; and when a decision will be made on the future of the garrison. [308727]

Bill Rammell: There are no plans to downsize or close the garrison at Edinburgh castle.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what decisions have been made on the future role of the Governor of Edinburgh Castle. [308730]

Bill Rammell: There are no plans to alter the role of the Governor of Edinburgh Castle, which is currently performed by General Officer Commanding 2 Division.

Military Bases: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to downsize or close the 2nd Division HQ at Craigiehall; and when a decision will be made on the future of the HQ. [308614]

Bill Rammell: The Army is currently reviewing its top-level structures in order to make them clearer and more accountable, and to remove any ambiguity or duplication. This will mean better and more efficient support to the front-line, and to soldiers and their families. Changes at 3 Star level have already been implemented in HQ Land Forces. The review will look at the detail below this level over the coming months. A key part of this will be the examination of the regional forces structures, centred on the Divisional Commands in Scotland, Aldershot, London and Shrewsbury, in the light of the new 3 Star responsibilities. It is too early to say when this work will conclude, what its outcome will be or what implications this may have for particular establishments or locations.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maintenance costs were for 2nd Division HQ at Craigiehall in each of the last 10 years. [308616]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Building maintenance costs for the 2nd Division HQ at Craigiehall since October 2003 are shown in the following table. Information prior to October 2003 is not held.

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
October 2003-March 2004	115,909
2004-05	511,153
2005-06	636,758
2006-07	467,638
2007-08	408,541
2008-09	267,024
April-November 2009	174,505

These figures do not include running costs, such as cleaning or utilities, which could not be separately identified in the time available.

Nimrod Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 801, on the future defence programme, what steps are being taken to ensure the safety of British submarines following the planned withdrawal of Nimrod MR2. [309270]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As indicated in the oral statement, other platforms are capable of providing the maritime patrol responsibilities. I am not prepared to disclose further details as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many employees of his Department and its agencies have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308510]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information on the number of employees of the Department and its agencies that have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 2007 is as follows:

1 April 2007 to 31 December 2007: 13;

1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008: 20;

1 January 2009 to 18 December 2009: 22.

The information for 1997 to March 2007 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Radioactive Materials: Transport

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 237W, on radioactive materials: transport, what the reason is for the difference in the expected in-service date for refurbished truck cargo heavy trailers and the date originally specified in the initial gate business case. [308140]

Bill Rammell: There has been no change in the expected in-service date for this capability.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of his Department's previous convoy support operations are now undertaken by the Atomic Weapons Establishment. [308188]

Bill Rammell: There has been no recent change to the scope of the tasks undertaken by the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) in support of convoy operations. Plans are in place however to transfer to the AWE contractor, during the second quarter of 2010, the responsibility for managing four areas of support. These are administrative support of the Special Safety Cell, maintenance of the fleet of escort vehicles, documentation management and training. The Ministry of Defence retains control of all these tasks.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what audit has been undertaken of the work of private companies servicing the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. [306820]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* We have carried out a range of audits and reviews of the work carried out by the five through-life cluster support contractors servicing the vessels of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Examples include quality audits, periodic performance reviews, work package acceptance procedures, and MOD and Third Party assurance processes. These will continue throughout the life of the contracts and will ensure that works are carried out in accordance with requirements.

In addition, the five contractors are required to hold the appropriate ISO 9001 Quality Management System certification, which is subject to regular independent audit.

Security

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK private military and security companies have been awarded contracts by his Department to carry out work in *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Iraq, *(c)* Sudan, *(d)* Israel, *(e)* Somalia, *(f)* Pakistan, *(g)* Colombia, *(h)* Ethiopia and *(i)* Eritrea in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008, (v) 2009 and (vi) future years; and what the monetary value is of each contract. [306911]

Mr. Quentin Davies: One UK private security company was awarded a contract to provide security for the UK defence advisers' accommodation in Kabul for three months in 2006-07: this contract was worth £37,000.

One UK private security company was awarded a contract to guard two compounds in Basra palace in 2008: this contract was worth £1,113,000.

No contracts have been awarded by this Department to private military and security companies for work in Sudan, Israel, Somalia, Pakistan, Colombia, Ethiopia or Eritrea.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department *(a)* has had recently and *(b)* is planning to have with US officials on regulation of private military and security companies in Iraq and Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [307013]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Ministry of Defence staff have frequent and regular communication with their US equivalents in order to ensure our coherence on a range of issues. The subject of private military security companies (PMSCs) has been discussed at staff level in broad terms over recent months as part of this routine interaction.

The US, UK and Swiss Governments have all been working together closely to agree a set of draft international standards for the PMSC industry. As the lead UK Department on PMSC policy, the FCO hopes to agree these standards with the US and Swiss Governments in the course of next year through a series of workshops and a plenary conference where MOD will be represented.

Territorial Army: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Territorial Army soldiers there were of each rank in each year since 1997. [308759]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 410W to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Trident

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to make his announcement on the decision on the initial gate of the approval process for a replacement for Trident submarines. [308057]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1218W, to the hon. Member for Keighley (Mrs. Cryer).

Type 45 Destroyers

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost is of procurement and installation of the Sea Viper Missile system on the Type 45 destroyers. [308609]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The costs for designing and manufacturing the Principal Anti Air Missile System (PAAMS), renamed Sea Viper by the Royal Navy, and for installing it on each of the six Type 45 Destroyers are included as part of the overall Type 45 programme costs of £6.5 billion. These costs also include the design and manufacture of the six Type 45s and are broadly split 60 per cent (£4 billion) for the ships and 40 per cent. (2.5 billion) for the weapons system.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to equip Type 45 destroyers with the Sea Viper Missile system; and if he will make a statement. [308610]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Sea Viper missile system is to be fitted to all six of the Type 45 Destroyers being built for the Royal Navy. The first ship in the Class, HMS DARING, is currently undergoing final MOD controlled Trials and Acceptance activity, including integration and trials of the Sea Viper missile system, prior to entering service with the Royal Navy.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many test firings of the Sea Viper missile have taken place; how much each firing cost; and how many of each firing have been successful. [308611]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Four test firings of the Sea Viper missile have taken place. These trials have all successfully provided vital system and performance evidence. This has enabled Sea Viper qualification and ship trials to progress in accordance with the planned Type 45 programme. Two of the test firings did not, however, meet all the planned trials objectives.

The test firings form part of the contract for the development and initial production of the Sea Viper system and the costs are not separately identifiable.

Warships

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to his Statement of 15 December 2009, when the minehunter will be decommissioned; and what the UK base is of that minehunter. [308636]

Mr. Quentin Davies: On current plans HMS Walney will be withdrawn from service in April 2010. Her base port is Faslane.

WALES

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many employees of his Department have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308522]

Mr. Hain: None.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England: Advertising

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England has spent on advertising in each of the last five years. [307331]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for Arts Council England, which operates independently of Government.

I have therefore asked Arts Council England's chief executive to consider the question raised by my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Arts Council England: Audit

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what audits have been undertaken since 1994 on restructuring of Arts Council England. [307330]

Margaret Hodge: Arts Council England's costs and savings are recorded as part of their external audit and are published with their annual report and accounts.

Arts Council England: Consultants

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many consultants Arts Council England has hired in each of the last five years; and at what cost in each of those years. [306830]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for Arts Council England, which operates independently of Government.

I have therefore asked Arts Council England's chief executive to consider the question raised by my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Arts Council England: Redundancy

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Arts Council England has set aside for redundancy payments in respect of its proposed restructuring; what proportion of this sum the organisation plans to spend on redundancy payments to employees in the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [307493]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for Arts Council England, which operates independently of Government.

I have therefore asked Arts Council England's chief executive to consider the question raised by my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Arts Council England: Venture Capital

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much venture capital Arts Council England has provided to small creative enterprises since its inception under the Creative Britain strategy; and how many creative enterprises have received such funding. [306364]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* Arts Council England funds individuals and organisations through its Grants for the Arts scheme, rather than providing venture capital for small creative enterprises.

Arts Council England provided £46,021,104 in Grants for the Arts funding in 2008-09. So far in 2009-10 it has made grants totalling £22,375,366. Many of these grants have gone to organisations that could be described as creative enterprises.

Arts Council of England

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what he expects the *(a)* final severance and *(b)* pension arrangements to be for the outgoing executive director of Arts Council England in (i) the South East and (ii) Yorkshire region; and if he will make a statement. [307381]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* This is a matter for Arts Council England, which operates independently of Government.

I have therefore asked Arts Council England's chief executive to consider the question raised by the Member for West Bromwich, East and to write to him direct.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if he will publish the guidelines issued to Arts Council England staff who *(a)* accept secondary jobs and *(b)* hold contracts which provide a secondary income; [307888]

(2) if he will publish the equal opportunities policy of Arts Council England; [308032]

(3) if he will publish the standard redundancy agreements used by Arts Council England; [308035]

(4) if he will publish the standard contract used by Arts Council England for employing staff. [308036]

Margaret Hodge: The issues raised are the responsibility of Arts Council England. This Department does not hold the documents mentioned.

I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what freedom of information requests have been received by Arts Council England in each of the last three years. [307889]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested relates to matters that are the responsibility of Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) for what private members' clubs used by *(a)* staff and *(b)* board members of Arts Council England that organisation pays membership (i) subscription and (ii) part-subscription; [307890]

(2) what overseas conferences were attended by Arts Council England *(a)* staff and *(b)* board members in each of the last three years; [307891]

(3) what catering facilities are provided for staff at Arts Council England's head office in London; [308042]

(4) how many mobile telephone devices are used by Arts Council England where the cost of calls is *(a)* fully and *(b)* partially paid for by the organisation; [308037]

(5) how much has been spent on *(a)* furnishing and *(b)* decoration of the Office of the (i) Chief Executive and (ii) Chair of Arts Council England in each of the last three years; [307921]

(6) how many domestic flights were taken by Arts Council England *(a)* staff and *(b)* board members in each of the last three years; [307935]

(7) how much Arts Council England spent on overnight *(a)* accommodation and *(b)* expenses for (i) its staff and (ii) its board members in each of the last three years; [307936]

(8) how much has been spent on *(a)* maintenance and *(b)* redecoration by Arts Council England in each of its regional offices in each of the last three years; [307922]

(9) how much was spent by Arts Council England at its head office on *(a)* cut flowers and *(b)* pot plants in each of the last three years; [307937]

(10) how much Arts Council England spent on car parking costs in each of the last three years; [307938]

(11) how much has been spent on carpets by Arts Council England for its *(a)* head office and *(b)* regional offices in each of the last three years; [307923]

(12) how many *(a)* desktop and *(b)* laptop computers have been purchased for use at Arts Council England's (i) head office and (ii) regional offices in each of the last three years; [307925]

(13) how much was spent on *(a)* taxi, *(b)* bus and *(c)* train journeys undertaken by staff employed at Arts Council England's head office in each of the last three years; [307927]

(14) how much Arts Council England spent on purchasing *(a)* newspapers and *(b)* magazines at its head office in each of the last three years. [307928]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested relates to operational matters that are the responsibility of Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* desktop and *(b)* laptop computers have been lost by staff employed by Arts Council England in each of the last three years. [307924]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested relates to operational matters that are the responsibility of Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who the members are of Arts Council England's audit committee. [307939]

Margaret Hodge: Arts Council England (ACE) has advised that the following are members of the audit committee:

Anil Ruia (chair)

Alistair Spalding

Rosemary Squire

Gill Laver (independent member)

David Carter (independent member).

Membership of the ACE audit committee is due to change in January 2010.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish the policy used to guide board members of Arts Council England on what issues should be discussed in *(a)* public and *(b)* private. [308039]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for Arts Council England. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many former Arts Council England national council members have subsequently been employed *(a)* by Arts Council England and *(b)* on projects that have received Arts Council England-approved funding in each of the last five years; [308043]

(2) which job vacancies there were at Arts Council England as of 11 December 2009; [308049]

(3) how many staff currently employed by Arts Council England have Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment agreements; [308034]

(4) when Graham Devlin's term of employment at Arts Council England *(a)* commenced and *(b)* ended. [307904]

(5) how many *(a)* white and *(b)* black and minority ethnic members of staff are employed by Arts Council England; [308038]

(6) how many *(a)* industrial and *(b)* employment tribunal cases have been taken out against Arts Council England in each of the last three years; [308040]

(7) how much external training provided to Arts Council England staff cost in each of the last three years; [307929]

(8) what *(a)* internal and *(b)* external training courses were undertaken by Arts Council England staff in each of the last three years; [307930]

(9) what the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* highest level of salary is of those staff members working for Arts Council England whose primary role is liaising with the press; [307931]

(10) how many press officers are employed by Arts Council England at *(a)* its head office and *(b)* each regional office; [307932]

(11) how many working days have been lost at Arts Council England due to sickness in each of the last five years; [307933]

(12) how many staff are employed by Arts Council England; and how many were employed at 1 April in each of the last five years. [307934]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested relates to operational matters that are the responsibility of Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the size in square feet is of the Arts Council England offices in Birmingham; [308045]

(2) what the annual rental costs of the Arts Council England offices in Birmingham were in each of the last five years; [308046]

(3) what the addresses are of each property that Arts Council England *(a)* owns and *(b)* leases. [307942]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is not held centrally by my Department and is a matter for Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Christmas Trees

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department and its agency in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305647]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Department for Culture, Media and Sport

	Number of trees purchased	*Cost (£)*
2005	n/a	n/a
2006	4	565
2007	3	446
2008	3	559
2009	3	559

n/a = Not available.

The Department's Christmas trees are purchased each year from sustainable sources within the United Kingdom, through its facilities management contractor. The trees are composted after use.

(b) The Royal Parks

	Number of trees purchased	*Cost (£)*
2005	17	1,700
2006	14	1,000
2007	13	1,600
2008	19	1,700
2009	17	1,200

The Royal Parks' Christmas trees are purchased each year from sustainable sources within the United Kingdom, through its nursery contractor. They include those placed in offices, playgrounds, memorial gardens, outside in the parks, in catering outlets and those passed on to other stakeholders. Some of these costs are therefore recharged to contractors. All the trees are disposed of as part of the Royal Parks' green waste recycling scheme.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by his Department and its agency on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308823]

Mr. Simon: The Royal Parks Agency has confirmed it has not cancelled any conferences in the last three years.

DCMS does not keep a central record of the information requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) have to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and NDPBs have recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [309268]

Mr. Simon: DCMS does not keep a central record of the information requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments the Royal Parks Agency has made to *(a)* Cavendish Communications and *(b)* Bellenden Public Affairs in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [305141]

Margaret Hodge: The information is as follows:

(a) The Royal Parks Agency (TRP) made the payments in the table to Cavendish Communications in each of the last 12 months. The purpose of this work was to design and run a programme of research with key stakeholders to identify and enable improvements to the relationships with partners and improvements to the delivery of services.

	Amount (£)
2008	
December	3,000
2009	
January	3,000
February	3,000
March	3,000
April	3,000
May	3,000
June	3,000
July	3,000
August	3,000
September	0
October	0
November	0

Note:
All fees exclude VAT.

(b) The Royal Parks Agency paid Bellenden Public Affairs £4,600 (including VAT) in 2009, for annual subscription to the publications and activities of the All Party Parliamentary Gardening and Horticulture Group.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the (i) subject and (ii) location of each away day was. [308671]

Mr. Simon: The Department and its agency, the Royal Parks, are strongly committed to developing their staff and equipping them with the skills, knowledge and expertise they need to carry out their work. Away days contribute to these objectives.

Within the Department, away days are arranged by individual teams and details of away days are not centrally recorded. The Department's accounting system does not record expenditure on away days separately from other staff training and developmental costs. To obtain the information requested would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

The Royal Parks has provided the information set out in the following table.

	Subject	*Location*	*Amount (£)*
14 May 2009	Staff conference	Greenwich	6,420
11 November 2009	Management Board Awayday	Government Art Collection, London	5,266
7 December 2009	Park Managers Awayday	Forestry Commission, Bedgebury Pinetum	150

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agency spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309052]

Mr. Simon: All accommodation costs are incurred in accordance with rules set out in the Department's staff guide and are consistent with the Civil Service Management Code.

Information regarding the number of room nights booked via the Department's agent is listed in the table. However, hotel accommodation booked independently, through individual travel and subsistence claims, is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department's agency, The Royal Parks, do not record the number of hotel nights separately and it would incur disproportionate cost to obtain this information.

Neither the Department nor its agency incurred fees of third party agents.

	Number of hotel nights booked via Department's agent
2009	125
2008	239
2007	186

Museums and Galleries: West Bromwich

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions a representative of Arts Council England *(a)* attended and *(b)* sent apologies to a meeting of the board of (i) The Public Building Limited, (ii) The Public Charity and (iii) the Building Sub-Committee of The Public Building Limited between 2003 and 2006. [307894]

Margaret Hodge: The information you have requested is not held centrally by the Department and is a matter for Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what dates meetings were held between Arts Council England and Advantage West Midlands to discuss The Public building in West Bromwich between 2003 and 2006. [307898]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

National Lottery: Translation Services

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been given by *(a)* Heritage Lottery Fund and *(b)* the Big Lottery Fund to projects to translate information into foreign languages in the last 12 months. [308224]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is not held centrally in the manner requested; to provide it would incur disproportionate costs.

Funding of this nature is usually part of a larger project.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many employees of his Department and its agency have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308509]

Mr. Simon: The number of employees from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), and its agency, the Royal Parks, convicted of a criminal offence since 1997 is zero.

Olympic Games 2012: Culture

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much had been spent in each region on programmes launched as part of the Cultural Olympiad on the latest date for which figures are available. [307131]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* Many of the Cultural Olympiad initiatives, such as the London 2012 Open Weekends and the projects within the Inspire Mark Programme, operating in the regions are designed, delivered and financed by local organisations rather than by central direction. Therefore, this information is not held centrally.

Three Major National Projects of the Cultural Olympiad have also been launched: Artists Taking the Lead; Stories of the World and Unlimited have been launched and all will have a strong regional presence. They are in their early stages. Therefore, expenditure figures are not yet available.

Nevertheless, The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games estimate that over £80 million of private and public money has been allocated to the Cultural Olympiad programmes overall and, of this sum, an estimated £14.49 million has been spent so far around the regions, on cultural projects awarded the Inspire Mark.

Olympic Games: British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance his Department has provided to Olympics-related sporting projects in *(a)* Bermuda, *(b)* the British Virgin Islands and *(c)* the Cayman Islands in the last five years. [309082]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has given no assistance to Olympics-related sporting projects in Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands in the last five years.

Olympic Games: Canada

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department expect to attend the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver in February in the course of their official duties; for how many days each expects to attend; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse in each such case. [308978]

Mr. Simon: The Minister for Sport is expected to attend the 2010 Winter Olympic games in Vancouver for four days to represent UK interests. The annual list of all ministerial travel costing over £500, which was last published on the Cabinet Office website in July 2009, includes the cost, destination and purpose of the trip. It also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers.

Party Political Broadcasts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with Ofcom on its proposals for the number of party political broadcasts allocated to minority parties. [308288]

Mr. Simon: Decisions on the allocation of party political broadcasts are a matter for the relevant broadcasters, acting in accordance with the rules established by Ofcom, the BBC Trust and the Welsh Authority, having regard to any views expressed by the Electoral Commission.

Officials in my Department have had no recent discussions with Ofcom on their rules for party political and referendum broadcasts. However, I understand that Ofcom recently consulted on proposed changes to the rules in this area. Ofcom's new rules will include updated guidance on how the allocation of party election broadcasts to major parties and other registered parties should be determined. Ofcom's intention is to have the revised rules in place ahead of the next general election. However, in the event that a general election is called before new rules are finalised, the existing rules will apply.

Swimming: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* under 16 year olds and *(b)* over 60 year olds resident in Nottingham North constituency have participated in free swimming through the Swimming Challenge Fund. [309020]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of unique participants in the Free Swimming Programme is not collected centrally. Local authorities are responsible for collecting data on the number of free swims that have taken place in their area each month. The following table shows the total number of free swims that have taken place under the free swimming scheme by *(a)* people aged 16 years and under, and *(b)* people aged 60 and over in the east midlands region in a given time period (April to September 2009). This is not a measure of the total number of individual participants taking part in free swimming, as the Department does not hold these figures.

The Department holds figures by local authority; county and region.

Accordingly, figures for Nottingham, North are included within those for the east midlands as a whole.

Swims, east midlands region, July to September 2009

	Number
Under 16-year-olds	371,628
Over 60	383,275

The Government have commissioned a robust independent evaluation of the Free Swimming Programme which is led by PricewaterhouseCoopers. PricewaterhouseCoopers will draw together a range of data over the coming months to provide an estimate of the number of people that have taken part in free swimming. We expect an evaluation report to be published in summer 2010.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to answer Question 301896 on restructuring of Arts Council England, tabled on 26 November 2009. [307600]

Margaret Hodge: I will answer the question from the hon. Member for West Bromwich, East shortly.

JUSTICE

Veteran Support

12. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to support veterans in custody. [308931]

Maria Eagle: We have just completed a data matching exercise jointly with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to identify the number of veterans in custody. The results show that 3 per cent. of the prison population have served in the armed forces. I am currently considering with MOD Ministers what future work needs to be done about offence types and military service to guide future research and policy development.

Clayton *v.* Clayton

13. **John Hemming:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Government plan to reverse the judgment given in Clayton v. Clayton on injunctions. [308932]

Bridget Prentice: This new legislation provides a comprehensive solution to the issue of how we increase the transparency of family courts, rather than merely addressing individual issues. Allowing the media to report the detail of family proceedings is being balanced by giving indefinite anonymity to the children and families involved. The legislation includes provisions to allow the courts to lift restrictions around the anonymity of children and families in specific circumstances, provided that it is safe to do so.

Probation Service Funding

14. **Mr. Gerrard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the future funding of the probation service; and if he will make a statement. [308933]

Mr. Straw: The budget for 2010-11 for the Probation Service is £870 million. This equates to a reduction of 2.7 per cent. year on year, consistent with the savings expected across public services, but is £26 million more than the original indicative budget.

Probation areas expect to make the required savings through back-office and management rationalisation and efficiency improvements, protecting front-line services.

Probation funding has increased since 1997 by 70 per cent. in real terms—a faster rate than the increase in case load and almost twice the growth rate of the Prison Service.

Prisoner Rehabilitation

17. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what programmes his Department has to rehabilitate prisoners. [308936]

Claire Ward: The National Offender Management Service in partnership with statutory, voluntary and Third Sector organisations delivers a broad range of interventions aimed at rehabilitating prisoners and preparing them to live crime free lives.

There are a number of accredited offending behaviour programmes addressing thinking skills, anger management, domestic and other types of violent crime as well as sexual offending. A range of interventions is available for offenders with an alcohol or drug problem.

Other interventions with a significant part to play include learning and skills activities and the work done with prisoners to help them get suitable accommodation and employment on release or help them manage their debt.

Prisoner Reoffending

18. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of programmes to reduce level of prisoner reoffending. [308937]

Maria Eagle: Reducing reoffending is one of the key strategic objectives of MOJ. Statistics published in May 2009 show that there was an 11.1 per cent. reduction in the rate of reoffending for adults and 7.5 per cent. for juveniles between 2005 and 2007.

Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill

19. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the provisions of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill; and if he will make a statement. [308938]

Mr. Wills: A number of amendments have been tabled to the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill for debate on the resumption of Committee stage. We will consider any amendments to the Bill carefully.

Electoral Register

20. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent assessment is of the integrity of the electoral register. [308939]

Mr. Wills: There is no evidence that electoral fraud is a major problem in this country. However, there is never room for complacency. More can be done to enhance the integrity of the register by improving its security, accuracy and comprehensiveness. The phased introduction of individual electoral registration will support these aims.

Prison Chaplains

21. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prisons are served by a Church of England chaplain. [308940]

Maria Eagle: All prisons are served by a Church of England chaplain other than where there is a vacancy, or in exceptional ad hoc circumstances. Where there is a vacancy, it will ordinarily be the case that there is Church of England cover available to provide weekly services and pastoral care.

Young Offender Institutions

22. **Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of young offender institutions in reducing reoffending. [308942]

Maria Eagle: The number of reoffences committed by those young people released from custody has been cut by 25.5 per cent. between 2000 and 2007, the latest date for which reoffending rates are available.

Young offender institutions provide young people with a range of interventions and programmes designed to tackle their offending behaviour and reduce the likelihood of their reoffending.

The Youth Justice Board is currently in the process of conducting a study entitled "Young People, Interventions and the Secure Estate" being carried out during 2009-12. It will explore outcomes for young people in each of the three sectors of the under-18 secure estate, including what types of interventions young offender institutions provide and the association between these and positive outcomes.

Legal Aid: Human Trafficking

23. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the availability of legal aid funding to victims of human trafficking. [308943]

Bridget Prentice: Civil legal aid is available to anyone who qualifies, including victims of human trafficking, provided the case is within the scope of the scheme. Each application is assessed on an individual basis to justify the grant of public funding, being subject to statutory tests of the applicant's financial means and the legal merits of the case.

Probation Service Performance

24. **Mr. Vaizey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to improve the performance of the probation service. [308944]

Maria Eagle: Probation boards and trusts are continuing to perform well and deliver against targets. 40 out of the 42 areas are meeting or exceeding their performance targets compared with 26 nine months ago, with 23 being rated as performing above the required standard. In areas where performance has fallen short of what the public can expect, we have taken decisive action. In London, for example, we appointed a new chief officer who has overseen encouraging improvements in performance.

Dangerous Driving

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of causing death by dangerous driving in *(a)* West Yorkshire, *(b)* Leeds and *(c)* Leeds North West constituency in each of the last five years. [307766]

Claire Ward: Information on the number of persons found guilty at all courts in the West Yorkshire police force area for causing death by dangerous driving, from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is given in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at city or parliamentary constituency level.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts in the West Yorkshire police force area for causing death by dangerous driving[1], 2003 to 2007[2, 3]

Offence	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Causing death by dangerous driving	13	12	18	13	9

[1] Road Traffic Act 1988, section 1.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [300205]

Mr. Straw: The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion in asset disposals over the period 2011-14 and will publish further details of opportunities to commercialise business assets in the coming weeks.

The following table details the asset description and the book value of each asset that the Ministry of Justice has disposed of or plans to dispose of from 2009-10 to 2011-12. The expected revenue is detailed as an annual figure due to the commercial sensitivities attached to the expected revenue of each individual asset

Plans for asset disposals in 2012-13 and 2013-14 have yet to be finalised and agreed, and are therefore not included in the list.

In March 2008, the Ministry of Justice published its asset management strategy, which will be pursued within the financial environment set by the Treasury. MOJ has developed a property asset management plan that will centralise, and significantly enhance, the management of the national and regional administrative estate, and has implemented its estates strategy to ensure the accommodation meets the business needs while providing best value for money.

Ministry of Justice planned disposals 2009-10 to 2011-12

	Owner	*Asset description*	*Book value (£000)*
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building London	484.65
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building London	327
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building London	390
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building Leicester	40
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building Norfolk	2
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building London	325
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building London	298
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building London	217
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building London	175
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building Norfolk	19.05
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building Middlesex	163
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building Dorset	140
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building West Yorkshire	80
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building Middlesex	171
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building Shropshire	2
2009-10	NOMS	Land and building Shropshire	2

Received revenue for 2009-10: £2,835,700.80

2009-10	HMCS	Land and building North Yorkshire	235
2009-10	HMCS	Land and building Caernarfon	160
2009-10	HMCS	Land and building Salisbury	1,290

Expected revenue 2009-10: £1,289,500.00

2010-11	NOMS	Land and building London	73,800
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Middlesex	190
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Durham	105
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Liverpool	170
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Rugby	120

Ministry of Justice planned disposals 2009-10 to 2011-12

	Owner	*Asset description*	*Book value (£000)*
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building West Yorkshire	250
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Winchester	505
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Devon	75
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Devon	85
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Devon	85
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Devon	85
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Devon	85
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building West Sussex	145
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Dorset	170
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Gloucestershire	550
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Gloucestershire	175
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Gloucestershire	175
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Gloucestershire	105
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Gloucestershire	105
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building London	1,500
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building London	936
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building London	220
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Suffolk	24
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Liverpool	308
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Kent	200
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Gloucestershire	150
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Middlesex	200
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building London	300
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Shropshire	2
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building London	192
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Yorkshire	385
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Nottinghamshire	92
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Cambridgeshire	140
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Wiltshire	30
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Campsfield	100
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Shropshire	5
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Kent	495
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Dorset	202
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Gloucestershire	1,520
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Monmouthshire	10
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Kent	300
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Derbyshire	25
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Stafford	5
2010-11	NOMS	Land and Buildings Birmingham	5
2010-11	NOMS	Land and Buildings London	420
2010-11	NOMS	Land and Buildings Kent	175
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Wolverhampton	6
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Rugby	828
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Northumberland	30
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Nottinghamshire	50
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Lincolnshire	250
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building County Durham	1,500
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Durham	375
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Oxfordshire	5
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Preston	51
2010-11	NOMS	Land and building Durham	3,280
Expected revenue for 2010-11: £52,276,000.00			
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Staffordshire	25
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Oxfordshire	30
2011-12	NOMS	L[illegible] building Staffordshire	50
2011-12	NOMS	La[illegible] building Shropshire	5
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Dorset	25
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Staffordshire	25
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Monmouthshire	150
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Suffolk	180
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Liverpool	133
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building East Yorkshire	285
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Doncaster	750
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Coltishall	4,000
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Isle of Wight	430
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building West Yorkshire	100
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Nottinghamshire	375
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Worcestershire	100
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Cambridgeshire	475
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Buckinghamshire	300
2011-12	NOMS	Land and building Wales	3,000
Expected revenue for 2011-12: £10,438,000.00			

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many external consultants work for his Department. [303238]

Mr. Straw: There were 694 consultants working for the Ministry of Justice in the financial year of 2008-09. There will be a manual count of live consultancy contracts which was conducted the week commencing 14 December 2009. Further data of the current live contracts will be available in due course.

Departmental Chief Information Officer

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what pay band his Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307561]

Mr. Wills: The Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed on a three-year fixed term contract at senior civil service pay band 2 level, with a salary range of £82,900 to £162,500. He is responsible for a budget of £242 million for 2009-10.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many days of sick leave were taken by staff in his Department and its agencies in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of such sick leave. [305553]

Mr. Straw: The number of annual working days lost per employee in the 12 months from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 was 9.5 days.

The Ministry of Justice reports its sick absence on the basis of a 12-month rolling year. These figures are provided by the Ministry's payroll provider. To obtain this information on a monthly basis would require the Ministry to obtain separate reports from payroll which would incur disproportionate cost. We are unable to provide details of the cost of such absence for a similar reason, but I have asked officials for advice as to whether a reliable estimate of the cost of 12 months absence in aggregate could be provided and I will write in due course to the hon. Member.

Departmental Training

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305899]

Mr. Wills: An important part of the personal development of high potential senior civil servants (SCS) are the targeted training programmes provided by the Cabinet Office, some of which involve overseas travel. The Ministry sends a limited number of delegates to two of these programmes (Top Management Programme and Leadership Across Borders Programme). In the past three years, the following numbers of SCS shown in the table have attended:

Financial year	*Numbers attending*
2007-08	1
2008-09	3
2009-10	3

The total cost of these places for the period April 2007 to November 2009 was £91,950.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of parliamentary questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307544]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice answered 750 named day questions during the 2008-09 session, of which, 482 (64.27 per cent.) were answered substantively on the day named.

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the 'Guide to Parliamentary Work', at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee Report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

National Offender Management Service : Equal Opportunities

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the National Offender Management Service staff diversity report for 2008-09; and what the reasons are for the time taken to publish it. [307734]

Maria Eagle: The Staff Diversity Review 2008-09 for the directly employed staff of the National Offender Management Service is expected to be published within NOMS by the end of December 2009. A copy will also be placed on the NOMS website. Unfortunately publication has been delayed because of a communication error in the Department.

Overseas Residence: Crime

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on allowing the Victims Commissioner to work with British citizens who are victims of crime overseas. [306960]

Claire Ward: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Jack Straw) has not received any representations on allowing the Victims' Commissioner to work with British citizens who are victims of crime overseas.

The Victims' Commissioner will not undertake individual casework. The Victims' Commissioner will be informed by the experience of victims and make representations regarding the support and services available for victims and witnesses. The role does not exclude learning from the experience of British citizens who are victims of crime overseas and where appropriate making recommendations regarding their needs.

Prisoner: Transfers

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to publish the report into transfer of prisoners from HM Prison Brixton prior to inspections or security audits. [300951]

Maria Eagle: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor informed the House during his oral statement on 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 777-83, that if any evidence emerges from the analysis of transfer of prisoners prior to inspection he would update the House.

Probation

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a decision has been made on the future of the Dyfed Powys Probation Trust office in Brecon, Powys. [307316]

Maria Eagle: There are currently no plans to close the Brecon Probation Office.

An estates review is undertaken annually by Dyfed-Powys Probation Trust as part of its business planning strategy. The next review will occur during the next financial year to ensure resources are provided in the most appropriate locations for offender management purpose.

The review will also enable the trust to respond to any changes in caseload, and any requirements for specific interventions which are delivered on behalf of courts.

Thinking Skills Programme: Yorkshire

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the outcomes of the Thinking Skills programme in Yorkshire were; and if he will make a statement. [307227]

Maria Eagle: The Thinking Skills Programme (TSP) was piloted in custody (Lindholme and New Hall and Whealstun—one fixed group each) and in community in Leeds (one group) and York (one group) probation offices. The group at York was a community-run pilot but was attended by women offenders from Askham Grange prison alongside community-based male and female offenders.

TSP community completions from April 2009 to date

	Number
West Yorkshire	120
South Yorkshire	50
North Yorkshire	31
Total	201

TSP Custody completions from April 2009 to date

	Number
HMP Everthorpe	38
HMP Hull	61
HMP Lindholme	58
HMP Moorland	9
HMP New Hall	34
HMP Wealstun	29
HMP Wolds	19
Total	248

NOMS has conducted two reviews of the Thinking Skills Programme pilots:

1. A Qualitative Evaluation of the New Cognitive Skills Programme Pilots (August 2008)

This was an internal review which has helped inform the development of the programme and its implementation.

2. Gender responsivity and the new Thinking Skills Programme (September 2009)

A qualitative evaluation of the thinking skills pilots with female offenders which was undertaken to understand women's experience of the Thinking Skills Programme. This showed that the TSP was relevant to the women who participated on the programme, helping them to address their behaviour and bring about change. Recommendations from the evaluation are being incorporated into TSP and will inform its implementation.

Young Offenders: Convictions

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of young offenders under the age of 18 years who appeared in court in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes was convicted in each year since 1997. [308088]

Claire Ward: The number of persons aged 10 to 17-years proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty of criminal offences at all courts in England and the Thames Valley police force area, from 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is given in the following table.

Court proceedings data are not available at town or local authority area level. Therefore data are included in the table for the Thames Valley police force area.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Table 1: Number of persons aged 10 to 17-years proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for all offences, England 1997 to 2007[1, 2]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conviction rate (percentage)[3]
1997	113,645	73,707	65
1998	121,848	80,608	66
1999	126,199	84,199	67
2000	132,456	85,566	65
2001	140,489	89,369	64
2002	136,881	88,477	65
2003	131,581	86,572	66
2004	127,710	90,174	71
2005	123,835	90,560	73
2006	119,123	88,520	74
2007	119,986	92,543	77

Table 2: Number of persons aged 10 to 17-years proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for all offences, Thames Valley police force area 1997 to 2007[1, 2]

	Proceeded against	Found guilty	Conviction rate (percentage)[3]
1997	2,874	1,778	62
1998	2,878	1,844	64
1999	2,937	1,764	60
2000	3,355	2,156	64
2001	4,040	2,542	63
2002	3,770	2,437	65
2003	3,446	2,168	63
2004	2,899	1,986	69
2005	3,838	2,694	70
2006	3,689	2,665	72
2007	3,540	2,704	76

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Proportion proceeded against who were found guilty.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Young Offenders: Foster Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 279-80W, on young offenders: foster care, what the reasons are for the time taken to complete the peer review process. [307259]

Maria Eagle: It is usual for a robust peer review process to take some time. The Youth Justice Board received the first draft of the Final Intensive Fostering

Evaluation report in December 2008, with a further chapter on costs submitted at the end of January 2009. Following comments from the Youth Justice Board a revised version was received from researchers in April and sent out to peer review in June 2009. Researchers considered comments from peer review, and submitted revised text in October; further comments and questions are currently being considered and resolved. The final evaluation report is expected to be published in the first quarter of 2010.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance relating to compliance with regulations his Department and its agencies have issued to farmers in the last 12 months. [307664]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Guidance on compliance with regulation, of interest to all farmers, was provided in "Protecting Our Water, Soil and Air: A Code of Good Agricultural Practice for Farmers, Growers and Land Managers", published in January 2009. This guidance brought together and updated three codes for water, soil and air. Information on the Single Payment Scheme and other direct payments is updated and sent annually to farmers.

Other guidance may be intended for specific farming interests. In response to the Sarah Anderson report on Guidance (published in January 2009), DEFRA is identifying its most frequently used guidance on compliance with regulations, much of which applies to farmers, and by 21 December 2009 will publish on the DEFRA website a list of the most frequently used guidance, together with information on when that guidance will be reviewed to bring it in line with Code of Practice on Guidance on Regulation. The Code of Practice was revised in October 2009 to include recommendations from the Anderson review.

Agriculture: EU Law

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of farms are required under EU regulations to be inspected for cross compliance; and what proportion of farms were inspected for cross compliance in each of the last five years. [307665]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Each Competent Control Authority is required by European legislation to inspect at least 1 per cent. of farmers receiving payments that are conditional on meeting the cross compliance requirements.

The legislation specifies that member states can use pre-existing inspection regimes to satisfy the above requirements. The Rural Payments Agency is required to inspect 5 per cent. (formerly 10 per cent.) of cattle keepers in respect of cattle identification and 3 per cent. of sheep keepers in respect of sheep identification.

The legislation also requires increased inspection control rates following significant non-compliance findings. Rates have duly been increased in some cross compliance areas.

The following table shows the proportion of farms inspected in each of the last five years.

Percentage

	2005[1]	2006	2007	2008	2009
Rural Payments Agency	0.20	1.5	1	1	1
Environment Agency	n/a	1	1	1	1
Animal Health	n/a	n/a	1	1.25	1.25
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	n/a	1	1	1	1
Cattle Identification	10	10.5	10	10	6.1
Sheep Identification	0.20	1.5	3	3	3.25

Source:
Rural Payments Agency Cross Compliance Database.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many representations he has received in respect of procedures used by the Rural Payments Agency in mapping individual farms for the purposes of the Single Payment scheme in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [304018]

Dan Norris: The number of representations received by Ministers in respect of mapping issues relating to the single payment scheme (SPS) in each of the last three years are shown in the following table.

SPS scheme year	*Number of representations*
2007	20
2008	9
2009	18

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* smallest and *(b)* largest penalty for cross-compliance is that has been applied to a payment under the Single Payment scheme in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [306418]

Dan Norris: The figures in the following table represent the smallest and largest payment reductions in monetary terms that the Rural Payments Agency has applied to Single Payment Scheme (SPS) claims in England following breaches of the cross-compliance requirements in the years 2005-08. We do not have a comprehensive set of data for 2009 as processing checks and inspections are not yet complete.

£

SPS scheme year	*Smallest penalty imposed*	*Largest penalty imposed*
2005	0.13	20,819.92
2006	0.18	105,263.17
2007	0.63	65,229.52
2008	0.64	55,797.46

The smallest 'penalty imposed figures' reflect the fact that under the European legislation governing cross-compliance percentage reductions as low as 1 per cent. may be applied to SPS payments in certain circumstances.

Further details regarding cross-compliance payment reductions can be found on the RPA website at:

www.rpa.gov.uk

Animal Welfare

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on enforcing minimum standards of animal welfare for animals moved between different countries in Europe. [307338]

Dan Norris: The Secretary of State raised the need for improved enforcement of welfare in transport rules across Europe at the Agriculture Council on 7 September 2009.

Bees

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the British Beekeepers' Association to participate in the Project Board charged with implementing the Food and Environment Research Agency's Healthy Bees Plan. [307646]

Dan Norris: The chief executive of the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) has been in dialogue with the president of the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA), about the Association's decision to withdraw from the Healthy Bees Plan's Project Management Board (the Board). This board represents a wide range of interests which is essential in order to explore solutions to the complex problems affecting pollinators. While both the Board and Fera have expressed their disappointment at the BBKA's decision to withdraw, a clear signal has been given to the Association that it is hoped they will all continue to work together on bee health issues and that the BBKA will rejoin the board at some point in the future.

Lord Davies and Fera have also recently met the BBKA to discuss how this may be taken forward. Subsequently Lord Davies has written to the BBKA with a series of proposals covering matters within DEFRA's control as to how BBKA might re-engage with the board and the range of stakeholders who have an interest in bee health who are represented there.

Meanwhile, Fera continues to work with the BBKA at a number of levels and is working with it to develop the relationship, and has appointed one of its top scientists to lead on this role.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle were slaughtered because of bovine tuberculosis precautions in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* the north west in each of the last six months. [307339]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As data from Vetnet are produced three months in arrears, figures cannot be provided for the last three months. The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered[1] due to a TB incident in Lancashire and the north-west in the last six months for which figures are available[2] (up to August 2009).

[1] Animals slaughtered include those slaughtered as reactors (including inconclusive reactors x 3 and gamma interferon positive reactors), inconclusive reactors and direct contacts in the year to date due to a confirmed, unconfirmed or unclassified TB incident.

[2] Data from Vetnet are provisional and subject to change as more data become available.

2009	*Lancashire*	*North-west (Government office region)*[1]
March	3	67
April	1	69
May	2	22
June	1	12
July	0	123
August	6	58

[1] The north-west Government office region includes: Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside.

Source:

Vetnet.

Cattle

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of records relating to cows born in the UK that have been lost since September 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307662]

Dan Norris: There are currently 8,768,528 cattle registered on the Cattle Tracing System. From 1 September 2008, 12,638 of these have been reported as being lost or not traced for reasons such as alleged theft. In addition to these, there are 25,289 cattle whose final destination is presently unreported. This is because the British Cattle Movement Service has received notification that the animal has left the holding but has not yet received the subsequent movement report on to the next holding.

Chasewater Reservoir

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies plan to provide financial assistance to Lichfield district council to meet its statutory obligations for the repair and maintenance in the earth embankment retaining the Chasewater Reservoir; and if he will make a statement; [307774]

(2) if he will undertake an assessment of the effect on the local environment if the earth embankment constructed to retain the Chasewater Reservoir in Lichfield district were to be breached; and if he will make a statement. [307775]

Huw Irranca-Davies: While DEFRA has overall policy responsibility for reservoir safety, the Department is unable to intervene in individual cases.

The Environment Agency is the enforcement authority for the Reservoirs Act 1975 in England and Wales. I understand that the Environment Agency has no plans to provide financial assistance to Lichfield district council to repair and maintain Chasewater Reservoir.

As part of the Government's response to the Pitt Review of the summer 2007 floods, the Environment Agency has prepared inundation maps for all large, raised reservoirs. As part of this exercise, it has prepared a map showing the area that would be inundated in Lichfield district in the event of an unplanned breach of the embankment. Details of the outline breach assessment have been supplied to Lichfield district council, the registered owners of the reservoir. We understand that Lichfield district council has also carried out a further detailed breach inundation study.

Christmas Trees

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305631]

Dan Norris: Historic information giving the expenditure on Christmas trees by DEFRA and its agencies, from where the trees were sourced, what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees and the disposal process is outlined as follows.

Information shown is the actual expenditure incurred by DEFRA on Christmas trees by the facilities management partners employed at that time. Historic information held shows that trees were grown in nurseries and taken from site to either be re-cycled or allowed to decay naturally on composting facilities.

Identifying expenditure incurred in 2004-05 could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

£

Organisation	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	—	[1]5,240	[2]5,239	[2]6,015	[3]0

[1] Seven trees.
[2] Eight trees.
[3] Tree donated.

Information given as follows is the expenditure incurred by each individual Agency over the last five years met from local budgets.

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA)	0	0	0	0	1,000

Note:
Christmas tree sourced in 2008 was from the British Tree Growers Association of Sustainable Standards. It was disposed of using on site waste management plant.

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Rural Payments Agency (RPA)	0	0	0	0	0

Note:
RPA have not purchased any Christmas trees over the last five years.

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Centre for Environment, Fisheries, Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)	40.00	40.00	45.00	45.00	45.00

Note:
All Christmas trees were sourced locally. Trees were re-cycled by external waste management contractor.

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Veterinary Medial Directorate (VMD)	0	40.00	45.00	40.00	55.00

Note:
All Christmas trees were sourced locally and disposed using the on-site waste management plant.

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Animal Health	0	0	0	0	0

Note:
Animal Health have not purchased any Christmas trees over the last five years.

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA)	0	0	342.00	0	0

Note:
FERA was formerly the Central Science Laboratory (CSL). CSL employed an external facilities management service contractor who supplied a Christmas tree each year (excluding 2006) as part of the service. All Christmas trees were sourced locally and disposed of using the on-site shredder.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much land has been designated under section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 since 1 January 2009; how much such land has been designated for the use of *(a)* walkers, *(b)* cyclists, *(c)* horse riders and *(d)* other equestrians; and at what locations land has been so designated. [307614]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since 1 January 2009 there have been three section 16 dedications, a total of 631 hectares. All of these have been for walkers only. No land has been dedicated for the use of cyclists, horse riders or other equestrian pursuits.

Locations of the section 16 dedications are as follows:

	Hectares
West Wood near Hereford	164
Wharncliffe near Sheffield	410
High House Waste near Ivybridge, Devon	[1]57

[1] Of which only five hectares was land not already mapped as Countryside and Rights of Way access land.

These dedications will be displayed on the Countryside and Rights of Way access maps when the updated maps are published on Natural England's website in January 2010.

Dairy Farming: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the change in the number of dairy farmers in *(a)* Chorley and *(b)* Lancashire between (i) 2008 and 2009 and (ii) 2009-10. [307340]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The grid referencing of the 2009 data is not yet complete so the latest information available is for 2008. This is shown in the following table, along with a comparison to 2007 to show the annual change.

In the UK, the trend in dairy production is towards fewer, larger and more productive herds.

	2007	2008		2007	2008	
	Number of dairy holdings[1]		Percentage change 2008-07	Number of farmers on dairy holdings[2]		Percentage change 2008-07
Chorley	42	41	-2	90	91	1
Lancashire[3]	717	675	-6	1,531	1,477	-4

[1] Dairy holdings are defined here as the number of holdings on the Cattle Tracing System on 1 June each year with more than 10 dairy cows in the milking herd.
[2] The number of farmers is defined as full and part-time farmers, partners, directors and spouses if working on the holding.
[3] Lancashire is defined as Blackburn, Blackpool and Lancashire county council.

Departmental Advertising

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on advertising in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [302494]

Dan Norris: Since the beginning of the current financial year DEFRA has spent around £2 million on campaign advertising through COI. This was primarily on campaigns for conservation volunteering, water saving and resource efficiency. A further £23,841.12 was spent on advertising vacancies within the same time period.

Detailed spend on advertising by DEFRA agencies is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many residential properties his Department owns; and how many *(a)* are occupied and *(b)* have been empty for more than six months; [303997]

(2) how many residential properties his Department owns; and how many *(a)* are occupied and *(b)* have been empty for more than six months. [303996]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 3 December 2009]*: The Department owns 38 residential properties of which *(a)* 36 are occupied and *(b)* two are vacant and have been vacant for more than six months.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307519]

Dan Norris: The Department uses structured away days to enable staff to develop the skills and policies needed to deliver the Department's objectives. We also run conferences on specific issues and send delegates to other organisations' conferences whose work is relevant to our own.

Statistics on away days and conferences are not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306717]

Dan Norris: On 1 January 2009 seven DEFRA employees were recorded on the Department's redeployment register, seven employees were recorded on 1 April 2009, 16 were recorded on 1 July 2009 and 10 employees were recorded on 1 October 2009.

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300628]

Dan Norris: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Any bonuses and incentives paid to consultants and contractors would be subject to the provisions of managing public money.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments the Environment Agency has made to *(a)* Four Communications and *(b)* Bellenden Public Affairs in the last 12 months; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each contract under which such payments were made. [305428]

Dan Norris: The Environment Agency has spent £5,000 in the last 12 months with Four Communications. This was to provide an understanding of the potential for new media in helping to engage with stakeholders on water and pollution issues. It has spent £27,471 with Bellenden Public Affairs for the provision of training and support for its engagement with local authorities on climate change issues.

The Environment Agency will place copies of contracts in the Library subject to supplier consent.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305516]

Dan Norris: Since the beginning of the current financial year we have spent around £850 on ministerial photoshoots and just under £20,000 on the production of videos in which Ministers appear. A comparable amount was spent in 2008-09. We do not hold a record for 2007-08.

These funds are generally used when filming ministerial speeches to play at conferences or other live events which they cannot attend due to diary or other logistical reasons.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305211]

Dan Norris: DEFRA operates one comprehensive helpline, the DEFRA Helpline, which has a prefix of 0845. DEFRA receives no income from this helpline.

The DEFRA Helpline has received 77,385 calls during the period 1 November 2008 to 30 November 2009.

Some callers may attract the BT local rate. Charges vary depending on callers' service providers, where and when they are calling from, the package the caller may be subscribed to and whether they are using a mobile.

The Cabinet Office, through the Contact Council, is currently developing a numbering strategy. This will cover a range of issues related to public sector numbering, including providing greater transparency and value for money for service users. In the meantime, the Council issued a "Clarification Statement on Telephone Number Ranges".

Departmental Training

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305896]

Dan Norris: Within DEFRA, training courses overseas are authorised locally by individual project managers with budgetary responsibility.

To collate such data at departmental level would incur disproportionate cost in excess of £750.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has made an assessment of the visual effect of wheeled refuse containers street scene and street clutter. [308763]

Dan Norris: No such assessment has been carried out by DEFRA.

Elephants: Conservation

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much money his Department has spent on the conservation of African elephants in each country in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [307635]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This Department has contributed the following funds towards African elephant conservation over the past five years:

Financial year	*Initiative*	*Amount (£)*
2005-06	Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS)[1]	32,000
	International Union for Conservation of Nature/Special Survival Commission's African Elephant Specialist Group (IUCN/SSC)[2]	30,000
	Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE)[1]	50,035
	Environmental Investigation Agency's ivory enforcement training workshops in Malawi and Zambia	20,035
2006-07	IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group	75,000
	MIKE	30,000
	ETIS	42,200
	Darwin Initiative project: capacity building to alleviate human-elephant conflict in Kenya	68,355
2007-08	7th Dialogue Meeting of African Elephant Range States	10,000
	ETIS	30,000
	IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group	30,000
	Darwin Initiative project: capacity building to alleviate human-elephant conflict in Kenya	73,700
2008-09	MIKE/ETIS	45,000
	Darwin Initiative project: capacity building to alleviate human-elephant conflict in Kenya	79,603
2009-10	MIKE/ETIS	45,000
	Darwin Initiative project: capacity building to alleviate human-elephant conflict in North Kenya	39,251
	Darwin Initiative project: Enhancing ETIS to guide Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)policy	32,071
	Total	732,250

[1] MIKE and ETIS are monitoring tools used by Parties to CITES to track illegal activities involving elephants.

[2] The IUCN/SSC's African Elephant Specialist Group is a group of experts whose aim is to promote the long-term conservation of Africa's elephants and, where possible, the recovery of their populations to viable levels.

Except where detailed above, DEFRA'S funding has not been country-specific.

In addition to these amounts, DEFRA has spent over half a million pounds on projects during the past five years which may indirectly benefit the African elephant.

Farms: Inspections

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 15 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1004W, on farm inspections, against which regulations compliance is monitored by each inspection body. [307663]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information is as follow:

Rural Payments Agency

(Basic Conditions) Regulations 1997 (SI 1997/189):

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Animal Health Act 1981

Cattle Identification Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/529)

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 509/1999

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2772/95

Commission regulation (EC) No. 911/2004

Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994 2716)

Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (SI 1994/2716)

Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 (SI 1986/1510):

Council Directive 2000/75/EC

Council Directive 2003/85/EC

Council Directive 79/409/EEC

Council Directive 80/68/EEC

Council Directive 86/278/EEC

Council Directive 91/414/EEC

Council Directive 91/629/EEC

Council Directive 91/630/EEC

Council Directive 91/676/EEC

Council Directive 92/102/EEC

Council Directive 92/119/EEC

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

Council Directive 96/22/ EC

Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998

Council Regulation (EC) No. 1257/1999

Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005

Council Regulation (EC) No. 1968/2005 (OJ No. L 277, 21.10.2005, p. 1)

Council Regulation (EC) No. 1968/2005 (OJ No. L 277, 21.10.2005, p. 1)

Council Regulation (EC) No. 2078/92

Council Regulation (EC) No. 21/2004

Council Regulation (EC) No. 473/2009 (OJ No. L 144, 9.6.2009, p. 8)

Council Regulation (EC) No. 473/2009 (OJ No. L 144, 9.6.2009, p. 8)

Countryside Act 1968

Crop Residues (Burning) Regulations 1993([1])

Energy Crops Regulations 2000

Entry Level Agri-Environment Scheme (Pilot) (England) Regulations 2003

Environmental Impact Assessment (England)(No. 2) Regulations 2006

Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999

Environmental Protection Act 1990

Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/3280)

Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/14)

Forestry Act 1967

Game Act 1831

General Food Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3279)

Heather and Grass etc. Burning (England) Regulations 2007([2])

Hedgerows Regulations 1997

Highways Act 1980

Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/1100)

National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2008 (SI 2349/2008)

Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) Order 2007 (SI 2007/642):

Plant Protection Products Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/1435):

Regulation (EC) No. 1760/2000

Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002

Regulation (EC) No. 183/2005

Regulation (EC) No. 396/05

Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004

Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004

Regulation (EEC) No. 2377/90

Regulation 178/2002

Regulation 83/2005

Regulation 852/2004

Regulation 999/2001

SI 2000/3042

SI 2003/838

SI 2005/3459

SI 2007/2003

SI 2007/3154

SI 2007/3304

SI 2008/962—the Bluetongue Regulations 2008

SI 853/2004

The African Swine Fever (England) Order 2003 (SI 2003/2913):

The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997 (SI 1997/1729:

The Bluetongue (No. 2) Order 2007 (SI 2007/3304)

The Cattle Plague Order 1928 (1928 No. 206)

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/3538)

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (waste management licences)

The Foot and Mouth Disease (England) Order 2006 (2006/182):

The Groundwater Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/2746)

The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) (England) Order 2007 (SI 2007/3493) supplements the EC Regulation, and the provisions relating to animal identification and on-farm records apply for cross compliance purposes

The Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 1989 (SI 1989/1263)

The Specified Diseases (Notification) Order 1996 (SI 1996/2628):

The Swine Vesicular Disease Order 1972 (SI 1972/1980):

The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1881):

The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/2539):

The Water Resources Act 1991

The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 (SI 2007/2078)

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Weeds Act 1959

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Council Regulation (EC) No. 73/2009

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 796/2004

Veterinary Medicine Directorate

The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2009 (these regulations were first made in 2005 and are revoked and remade annually)

The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997

Animal Health

Animal Health Act 1981

Animal Health Act 2002

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Animal Health and Welfare Act 1984

Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006

Tuberculosis (England) Order 2007

Tuberculosis (Scotland) Order 2007

Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2006

Tuberculosis (Testing and Powers of Entry) (Wales) Order 2008

Tuberculosis (Deer) Order 1989

Tuberculosis (Deer) Notice of Intended Slaughter and Compensation Order 1989

Welfare of Animals (Slaughter and Killing) Regulations 1995

Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Scotland) Order 2006

Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007

Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2000

Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2007

Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2009

The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1997 as amended

Environment Agency

The Environment Agency monitors regulatory compliance on farms using integrated visits. During farm visits EA officers assess Land Managers compliance against relevant regulations under the following regime.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (Nitrates Directive)

Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) (Waste and Integrated Pollution Prevention Directives)

Exemptions from EPR Waste regulation including land-spreading

Hazardous Waste Regulations

Groundwater Regulations (Groundwater Daughter Directive)

Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil Regulations

Sewage Sludge Regulations

Water Resources Act (Abstraction licensing, Consent to Discharge, avoiding pollution)

Land Drainage Act

Reservoirs Act

Flood Control: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department allocated to *(a)* regional development agencies and *(b)* other bodies following the flooding in summer 2007 for flood prevention works; how much funding has been provided to each such body; and what criteria apply in respect of qualification for such funds. [307753]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Regional development agencies (RDAs) are financed through a single budget, a fund which pools money from all the contributing Government Departments. From this single pot, RDAs provided over £11 million support for the businesses affected in their regions, as part of the wider £136 million that Government made available to assist the affected regions and help those in greatest need. This includes funding for schools, transport and businesses. No specific funding was given to RDAs in respect of the 2007 floods.

Spending on flood risk management across central and local government has increased from £307 million in 1996-97 to over £655 million in 2008-09, and is due to reach £715 million in 2009-10 and £780 million in 2010-11. This will bring the total spent by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and local authorities over three years to £2.15 billion. £20 million of the original £800 million for 2010-11 was brought forward into this year's budgets as part of the fiscal stimulation package announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report.

Since the 2007 floods, DEFRA has given funding to a considerable number of bodies to plan for and reduce the risk of flooding and its impacts and ensure that communities and the essential services which supply them are protected. The sums outlined as follows represent the most significant of these funding allocations.

The majority of the funding is through the Environment Agency which allocates funding to regional flood defence committees for both new capital schemes and to maintain existing defences on the basis of national priorities to ensure that the funding is spent in the best way possible. Delivery is managed through the Environment Agency's regional offices.

The allocation to Environment Agency regions was £495.3 million in 2008-09 and £548.6 million in 2009-10.

In April 2006 the Environment Agency took on responsibility for the administration of capital grants payable to local authorities and internal drainage boards under delegation from DEFRA for all schemes promoted under the Land Drainage Act and for schemes under the Coast Protection Act from April 2008. In 2008-09 and 2009-10 £64 million was allocated in each year for projects delivered by these bodies.

£1 million has been made available to the Environment Agency to manage the intake of local authority trainees in September 2009 and to finance the trainees on the two-year Environment Agency Flood and Coastal Risk Engineering Foundation Degree. A further £175,000 has been made available to fund an intake of local authority trainees in September 2010.

As noted in annex A of the Progress Report (published 15 December 2009) on the Government's Response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review of the summer 2007 floods, £34.5 million is being allocated by DEFRA to delivery organisations to help cover the additional costs of taking forward the recommendations they are responsible for.

The following table shows how much has been allocated to date. It shows that a total of £20.2 million has been allocated to individual agencies and bodies by DEFRA so far.

Allocation to:	*Allocation*	*Allocated by December 2009*	*To deliver:*
Local authorities	£15 million	£10 million between 80 local authorities	Local authority leadership on flood risk management in the highest priority areas, including surface water management plans, tackling surface water problems, mapping of drainage assets, and oversight and maintenance of sustainable drainage systems for new housing, etc.

Allocation to:	*Allocation*	*Allocated by December 2009*	*To deliver:*
Environment Agency and Met Office	£5.0 million	£3.76 million	A new joint forecasting and warning centre, including the extreme rainfall alert.
Environment Agency	£8.5 million	£5 million	All other recommendations where the Environment Agency leads, including its new strategic overview of all types of flood risk in England, better modelling, forecasting and mapping for flooding particularly surface water, roll-out of ex-directory flood warnings, reservoir inundation maps, and a national flooding exercise to test the new response arrangements.
Met Office	£0.5 million	£230,000	Research to make use of new detailed forecasting models for flooding.
Cabinet Office	£0.4 million	£0.2 million	New team within the Civil Contingencies Secretariat to run a national campaign to improve the resilience of critical national infrastructure.
Others	£10,000	£10,000	To fund the Risk and Regulatory Advisory Council to consider the communication of flood risk to the public.
Contingency	£5.1 million	£1.0 million	To provide a contingency fund in case allocations need to be increased in some areas, and to include: up to £2 million for an improved flood rescue capability; up to £1.25 million to support the production of reservoir emergency plans by local resilience forums. Funds have also been provided to the following additional activities announced since the Government's response: £750,000 to support local authority flood risk management apprenticeships this year and next. A further £250,000 is being funded from other budgets. £140,000 to fund a reservoir inundation mapping tool.
Total	£34.5 million	£20.2 million	—

Source:
Annex A of the Progress Report on the Government's Response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review (published 15 December 2009).

The breakdown of the major funding schemes originating from Pitt Review recommendations and the criteria that apply for qualifying bodies are reproduced as follows:

1. Property level grant scheme

Local authorities allocated grants from the first round of the £5.5 million property level grant scheme (announced in June 2009 by the Secretary of State) amounted to £3 million. As yet, no claims for grant have been made against these allocations. Table 1 shows the geographical breakdown of recipients.

Table 1: Local authority recipients of property level grant scheme funding

Local authority	*Environment Agency region*	*Awarded (£)*
Ribble Valley BC	North West	119,700
Rossendale BC	North West	3,000
Wigan Council	North West	83,500
Vale Royal BC	North West	15,000
Leeds City Council	North East	131,100
Wakefield MDC	North East	85,500
Newcastle City Council	North East	216,600
Wychavon DC	Midlands	121,000
Birmingham City Council	Midlands	153,900
South Derbyshire DC	Midlands	33,511
Aylesbury Vale DC	Anglian	325,000
Milton Keynes Council	Anglian	39,900
Uttlesford DC	Anglian	79,800
Oxford City Council	Thames	119,700
West Oxfordshire DC	Thames	171,000
Vale of White Horse DC	Thames	51,300
Wokingham DC	Thames	114,000
Lewes DC	Southern	282,000
Somerset CC	South West	267,900
East Devon DC	South West	96,900
Gloucester CC	Midlands	68,400
Doncaster CC	North East	108,000
Gloucester CC and Tewkesbury BC	Midlands	119,000
Lincolnshire CC	Anglian	96,900
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	North East	108,000
Total		3,010,611

The basic criteria for the scheme is based on property type and the frequency and type of flooding. The full guidance for the scheme can be found at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/documents/manage/floodgrantguidance.pdf

2. Surface wafer management

On 18 August the Secretary of State announced £16 million funding to help local authorities tackle surface water flooding.

£9.7 million was been awarded to 77 local authorities for areas where evidence shows that the risk and potential impact of surface water flooding could be highest. Local authorities for all other areas will also be able to bid for a share of £5 million to help them deal with known local flooding problems. £1 million has been allocated for building skills and capacity within local authorities.

The £9.7 million funding has been allocated to the following local authorities. The first payments are being made in December 2009. All London borough funding is being made through the Drain London Forum. The methodology for determining the £9.7 million funding can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/documents/manage/surfacewater/swmethodology.pdf

Table 2: Local authority recipients of SWMP funding

County or unitary authority	*Funding received (£000)*
Birmingham (Metropolitan)	300
City of Brighton and Hove	275
Leicester City, Kingston upon Hull Unitary; City of Bristol; Liverpool (Metropolitan)	250
Manchester (Metropolitan); City of Nottingham; Leeds (Metropolitan); Hertfordshire County; Buckinghamshire County	200
Luton Unitary; Sheffield (Metropolitan); East Sussex County; West Sussex County	175
Reading Unitary; City of Portsmouth; City of Wolverhampton; Coventry (Metropolitan)	150
Slough Unitary; Norfolk County; Derby Unitary; Hampshire County; Essex County	125
City of Southampton; Kirklees Unitary; Southend on Sea Unitary; City of Stoke on Trent; Somerset County; Kent County; Swindon Unitary; Surrey County; Calderdale (Metropolitan); City of Plymouth; North Somerset Unitary; Gloucestershire County; Middlesbrough Unitary; Blackpool Unitary; Leicestershire County; Northants County; Sandwell Unitary (West Midlands); Westminster (LB); Lambeth (LB); Croydon (LB); Kensington and Chelsea (LB); Islington (LB); Camden (LB); Wandsworth (LB); Lewisham (LB); Southwark (LB); Bromley (LB); Hackney (LB); Hammersmith and Fulham (LB); Brent (LB); Enfield (LB); Havering (LB); Haringey (LB); Greenwich (LB); Merton (LB); Barnet (LB); Tower Hamlets (LB); Waltham Forest (LB); Sutton (LB); Newham (LB); Hillingdon (LB); Ealing (LB); Hounslow (LB); Richmond upon Thames (LB); Harrow (LB); Bexley (LB); Redbridge (LB); Kingston upon Thames (LB); Barking and Dagenham (LB)	100
Lancashire County; Suffolk County; Bournemouth Unitary; Rochdale (Metropolitan)	75
Total	9,700

In addition, local authorities were able to bid for a part of the £5 million to help deal with known surface water problems. We are aiming to make an announcement to successful local authorities in January 2010. Funding will be made available after March 2010. The criteria for bids can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/documents/manage/surfacewater/earlyactapplication.doc

Additionally, £300,000 was allocated in December 2008 for six areas (Warrington, Thatcham, Leeds, Kingston upon Hull, Richmond upon Thames and Gloucestershire) to carry out first edition surface water management plans with the aim to test DEFRA's Draft Surface Water Management Plan Guidance.

3. Building skills and capacity for local authorities

An additional £1 million will be available for building skills and capacity within local authorities. This will include the provision of training, guidance and support tools to all local authorities and a programme for this will be developed with local authorities and their representatives over the next few months.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* take-up and *(b)* geographic distribution has been of funding made available by his Department following the flooding of summer 2007 for flood prevention works; how much such funding has yet to be allocated; and if he will make a statement. [307756]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Spending on flood risk management across central and local government has increased from £307 million in 1996-97 to over £655 million in 2008-09, and is due to reach £715 million in 2009-10 and £780 million in 2010-11. This will bring the total spent by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and local authorities over three years to £2.15 billion. £20 million of the original £800 million for 2010-11 was brought forward into this year's budgets as part of the fiscal stimulation package announced in the 2008 pre-Budget report.

The majority of the funding is through the Environment Agency which allocates funding to Regional Flood Defence Committees for both new capital schemes and to maintain existing defences on the basis of national priorities to ensure that the funding is spent in the best way possible. Delivery is managed through the Environment Agency's regional offices.

The following table provides a regional analysis of Government funding to the Environment Agency for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Table 1: DEFRA Grant in aid to the Environment Agency Regions 2008-09 to 2009-10

	Anglian	*Midlands*	*North East*	*North West*	*Southern*	*South West*	*Thames*	*£ million* *Total*
2008-09	135.0	46.6	60.7	49.3	61.7	51.7	90.2	495.3
2009-10	115.6	62.1	77.3	61.4	77.3	52.9	102.3	548.6

In April 2006 the Environment Agency took on responsibility for the administration of capital grants payable to local authorities and Internal Drainage Boards under delegation from DEFRA for all schemes promoted under the Land Drainage Act and for schemes under the Coast Protection Act from April 2008.

In 2008-09 and 2009-10, £64 million was allocated in each year for projects delivered by these bodies. In both years the Environment Agency fully utilised the entire grant-in-aid allocation on its own projects or those delivered by local authorities and Internal Drainage Boards

Another major tranche of funding since 2007 has been allocated to taking forward the Pitt review recommendations over the period 2008-09 to 2010-11.

As noted in Annex A of the Progress Report (published 15 December 2009) on The Government's response to Sir Michael Pitt's review of the summer 2007 floods, up to £34.5 million will be allocated by DEFRA to delivery organisations to help cover the additional costs of taking forward the recommendations they are responsible for.

The following table shows that a total of £20.2 million has been allocated to date to individual bodies and agencies.

Table 2: Funding allocations for implementing the Pitt review recommendations

Allocation to:	*Allocation (£)*	*Allocated by December 2009 (£)*	*To deliver:*
Local authorities	15,000,000	[1]10,000,000	Local authority leadership on flood risk management in the highest priority areas, including surface water management plans, tackling surface water problems, mapping of drainage assets, and oversight and maintenance of sustainable drainage systems for new housing, etc.
Environment Agency and Met Office	5,000,000	3,760,000	A new joint forecasting and warning centre, including the extreme rainfall alert.
Environment Agency	8,500,000	5,000,000	All other recommendations where the Agency lead, including their new strategic overview of all types of flood risk in England, better modelling, forecasting and mapping for flooding particularly surface water, roll-out of ex-directory flood warnings, reservoir inundation maps, and a national flooding exercise to test the new response arrangements.
Met Office	500,000	230,000	Research to make use of new detailed forecasting models for flooding.
Cabinet Office	400,000	200,000	New team within the Civil Contingencies Secretariat to run a national campaign to improve the resilience of critical national infrastructure.
Others	10,000	10,000	To fund the Risk and Regulatory Advisory Council to consider the communication of flood risk to the public.
Contingency	5,100,000	1,000,000	To provide a contingency fund in case allocations need to be increased in some areas, and to include: Up to £2 million for an improved flood rescue capability; Up to £1.25 million to support the production of reservoir emergency plans by Local Resilience Forums. Funds have also been provided to the following additional activities announced since the Government's response: £750,000 to support local authority flood risk management, apprenticeships this year and next. A further £250,000 is being funded from other budgets. £140,000 to fund a reservoir inundation mapping tool.
Total	34,500,000	20,200,000	

[1] Between 80 local authorities

Source:

From: Annex A of the Progress Report on The Government's Response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review (published 15 December 2009).

The break-down of the major funding schemes originating from Pitt review recommendations is as follows:

1. Property level grant scheme

DEFRA is committed to encouraging the adoption of property level protection and resilience, especially where community protection is not available or planned for in the near future.

Local authorities allocated grants from the first round of the £5.5 million property level grant scheme (announced in June 2009 by the Secretary of State) amounted to £3 million. As yet, no claims for grant have been made against these allocations. Table 3 shows the geographical break-down of recipients.

Table 3: Local authority recipients of property level grant scheme funding

Local authority	*Environment Agency region*	*Amount awarded (£)*
Ribble Valley BC	North West	119,700
Rossendale BC	North West	3,000
Wigan Council	North West	83,500
Vale Royal BC	North West	15,000
Leeds City Council	North East	131,100
Wakefield MDC	North East	85,500
Newcastle City Council	North East	216,600
Wychavon DC	Midlands	121,000
Birmingham City Council	Midlands	153,900
South Derbyshire DC	Midlands	33,511
Aylesbury Vale DC	Anglian	325,000
Milton Keynes Council	Anglian	39,900
Uttlesford DC	Anglian	79,800
Oxford City Council	Thames	119,700
West Oxfordshire DC	Thames	171,000
Vale of White Horse DC	Thames	51,300
Wokingham DC	Thames	114,000
Lewes DC	Southern	282,000
Somerset CC	South West	267,900
East Devon DC	South West	96,900
Gloucester CC	Midlands	68,400
Doncaster CC	North East	108,000
Gloucester CC and Tewkesbury BC	Midlands	119,000
Lincolnshire CC	Anglian	96,900

Table 3: Local authority recipients of property level grant scheme funding

Local authority	*Environment Agency region*	*Amount awarded (£)*
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	North East	108,000
		3,010,611

2. Surface water management

On 18 August the Secretary of State announced £16 million funding to help local authorities tackle surface water flooding.

£9.7 million was been awarded to 77 local authorities for areas where evidence shows that the risk and potential impact of surface water flooding could be highest. Local authorities for all other areas will also be able to bid for a share of £5 million to help them deal with known local flooding problems. £1 million has been allocated for building skills and capacity within local authorities. The £9.7 million funding has been allocated to the following local authorities. The first payments are being made in December 2009 and will then be made monthly until the end of March 2011. All London borough funding is being made through the Drain London Forum.

Table 4: Local authority recipients of SWMP funding

County or unitary authority	*Funding received (£000)*
Birmingham (Metropolitan)	300
City of Brighton and Hove	275
Leicester City	
Kingston upon Hull Unitary	
City of Bristol	
Liverpool (Metropolitan)	250
Manchester (Metropolitan)	
City of Nottingham	
Leeds (Metropolitan)	
Hertfordshire County	
Buckinghamshire County	200
Luton Unitary	
Sheffield (Metropolitan)	
East Sussex County	
West Sussex County	175
Reading Unitary	
City of Portsmouth	
City of Wolverhampton	
Coventry (Metropolitan)	150
Slough Unitary	
Norfolk County	
Derby Unitary	
Hampshire County	
Essex County	125
City of Southampton	
Kirklees Unitary	
Southend on Sea Unitary	
City of Stoke-on-Trent	
Somerset County	
Kent County	
Swindon Unitary	
Surrey County	
Calderdale (Metropolitan)	
City of Plymouth	
North Somerset Unitary	
Gloucestershire County	
Middlesbrough Unitary	
Blackpool Unitary	
Leicestershire County	
Northants County	
Sandwell Unitary (West Midlands)	
Westminster (LB)	
Lambeth (LB)	
Croydon (LB)	
Kensington and Chelsea (LB)	
Islington (LB)	
Camden (LB)	
Wandsworth (LB)	
Lewisham (LB)	
Southwark (LB)	
Bromley (LB)	
Hackney (LB)	
Hammersmith and Fulham (LB)	
Brent (LB)	
Enfield (LB)	
Havering (LB)	
Haringey (LB)	
Greenwich (LB)	
Merton (LB)	
Barnet (LB)	
Tower Hamlets (LB)	
Waltham Forest (LB)	
Sutton (LB)	
Newham (LB)	
Hillingdon (LB)	
Ealing (LB)	
Hounslow (LB)	
Richmond upon Thames (LB)	
Harrow (LB)	
Bexley (LB)	
Redbridge (LB)	
Kingston upon Thames (LB)	
Barking and Dagenham (LB)	100
Lancashire County	
Suffolk County	
Bournemouth Unitary	

Table 4 Local authority recipients of SWMP funding

County or unitary authority	*Funding received (£000)*
Rochdale (Metropolitan)	75
Total	9,700

In addition local authorities were able to bid for a part of the £5 million to help deal with known surface water problems. Bids closed on 30 November 2009.

Applications are currently being assessed and we are aiming to make an announcement to successful local authorities in January 2010. Funding will be made available after March 2010.

Additionally £300,000 was allocated in December 2008 for six areas (Warrington, Thatcham, Leeds, Kingston upon Hull, Richmond upon Thames and Gloucestershire) to carry out first edition surface water management plans with the aim to test DEFRA's Draft Surface Water Management Plan Guidance.

3. Building skills and capacity for local authorities

An additional £1 million will be available for building skills and capacity within local authorities. This will include the provision of training, guidance and support tools to all local authorities and a programme for this will be developed with local authorities and their representatives over the next few months.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of *(a)* wheat, *(b)* barley, *(c)* fresh vegetables, *(d)* potatoes, *(e)* fresh fruit, *(f)* beef and veal, *(g)* pork, *(h)* bacon and ham, *(i)* mutton and lamb, *(j)* poultry meat, *(k)* eggs and *(l)* liquid milk was produced in England in each year since 1997. [308079]

Huw Irranca-Davies: England figures are not available for all the products listed. However, the following tables show UK production figures for each product in each year since 1997. To reduce the burden on the industry some companies with sites in different parts of the UK provide information on their total UK production. Also, particularly for livestock and livestock products, where something is produced does not necessarily reflect its origin. For example sheep slaughtered in England may be raised in Wales.

UK crop production

Thousand tonnes

	Wheat	*Barley*	*Potatoes*	*Vegetables*	*Fruit*
1997	15,018	7,828	7,128	2,937	292
1998	15,449	6,623	6,422	2,863	278
1999	14,867	6,581	7,131	2,952	347
2000	16,704	6,492	6,178	2,923	307
2001	11,580	6,660	6,674	2,865	331
2002	15,973	6,128	6,921	2,573	294
2003	14,288	6,370	6,058	2,543	269
2004	15,473	5,816	6,246	2,539	294
2005	14,863	5,495	5,979	2,710	363
2006	14,735	5,239	5,727	2,597	392
2007	13,221	5,079	5,564	2,480	403
2008	17,227	6,144	5,999	2,607	403

Source:
Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2008, DEFRA

UK meat production

Thousand tonnes

	Beef and veal	*Pork*	*Bacon and ham*	*Mutton and lamb*	*Poultry meat*
1997	698	884	242	342	1,527
1998	695	921	240	373	1,548
1999	679	824	243	392	1,549
2000	704	716	224	383	1,514
2001	645	590	221	267	1,566
2002	694	595	231	307	1,557
2003	703	542	237	310	1,578
2004	724	547	235	319	1,571
2005	765	543	240	336	1,583
2006	852	548	231	332	1,517
2007	888	599	197	328	1,459
2008	863	602	184	333	1,429

Source:
Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2008, DEFRA
UK Meat Supplies and Domestic usé, DEFRA

UK Egg and milk production

	Eggs (million dozen)	*Milk (million litres)*
1997	794	14,426
1998	774	14,220
1999	738	14,587
2000	712	14,078
2001	753	14,291
2002	747	14,447
2003	730	14,583
2004	773	14,134
2005	772	14,059
2006	743	13,914
2007	720	13,632
2008	755	13,332

Source:
Agriculture in the United Kingdom 2008, DEFRA

Forestry Commission: Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Forestry Commission's buildings attended by civil servants in the Forestry Commission there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307459]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Forestry Commission in England does not hold the information centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Forestry Commission: Hotels

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Forestry Commission has spent on hotel accommodation for its officials in each of the last five years. [306036]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Forestry Commission does not hold the information in the format requested and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ivory

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has had discussions with the African Elephant Coalition on the level of elephant-poaching for ivory since the 2008 ivory stockpile sales; and if he will make a statement. [307495]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Neither I nor the Secretary of State have had discussions with the African Elephant Coalition.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has had discussions with African range states on the 2008 ivory stockpile sales; and if he will make a statement. [307496]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Neither I nor the Secretary of State have had discussions with the African range states on the 2008 ivory stockpile sales.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has received reports on the effects on the level of elephant poaching in African range states of stockpile sales of ivory held in October and November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307497]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) and the Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programmes have each provided reports to be considered at the next CITES Conference of Parties to be held in Qatar in March 2010. These consider the effects of the one-off legal sale of ivory in 2008. The reports can be found on the CITES website.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has had discussions with his EU counterparts on the proposals to extend the moratorium on ivory sales at the 15th Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species conference of the Parties; and if he will make a statement. [307498]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Officials are engaged in discussions with EU member states to reach agreed positions on all the proposals to be considered at the 15th Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Conference of Parties. Final positions have yet to be agreed and discussions will continue up until the conference which will take place in March.

Ivory: China

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent *(a)* reports he has received and *(b)* discussions he has had with his (i) Chinese and (ii) Japanese counterparts on the controls in place in respect of illegal ivory imports to each of those countries; and if he will make a statement. [307633]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A report on inspections and control checks undertaken in China and Japan upon the arrival of the legal ivory, from the sale which took place in 2008, was prepared for the 58th meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Standing Committee held between 6 and 10 July 2009. I have received no other reports, nor have I held discussions with either Chinese or Japanese officials on the controls in place, in respect of illegal ivory imports to those countries since the ivory sale in 2008.

Joint Waste Authorities

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the latest timetable is for the establishment of joint waste authorities; and in which areas he expects the first such authorities to be established. [308601]

Dan Norris: No proposals to establish a joint waste authority have been received to date, though several groups of authorities have submitted non-committal expressions of interest in pursuing this option and DEFRA is working with them to explore what is required—details are available on DEFRA'S website. Development of a full proposal is expected to take a considerable amount of time, and we are keen that authorities do this in line with local needs.

If a proposal is submitted we expect that it will take at least 12 months to assess, approve if relevant, and implement the legal changes necessary to establish a joint waste authority.

We will be working closely with authorities as they progress their plans for joint working, through the support programme we have put in place. All forms of advanced partnership working on waste can bring significant benefits, in terms of improved and more efficient service provision.

Morocco: Fishery Agreements

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement. [307418]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No formal assessment of the effectiveness of the EU-Morocco agreement has been made but Joint Committees are held each year where both parties discuss how they consider the agreement is working. The UK attends these meetings in order to represent the interests of the vessels that operate in Moroccan waters under the agreement.

National Bee Unit: Finance

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of the £2.3 million funding allocation to the National Bee Unit announced in January 2009 has been spent under each budget heading. [307636]

Dan Norris: The additional funding of £2.3 million allocated to the Food and Environment Research Agency's National Bee Unit to implement the Healthy Bees plan was spread over two years—£1.137 million in 2009-10 and £1.158 million in 2010-11. Details of the amounts spent to 30 November 2009 are set out as follows:

Activity	*Spend (£)*
New Seasonal Bee Inspectors	375,000
New Education Officer Post	45,000
Healthy Bees Plan Project Board Educational and Promotional Activities	[1]100,000
Healthy Bees Plan Stakeholder Steering Group and Project Workstreams	[1]60,000
Additional Diagnostics	81,000

Activity	*Spend (£)*
Beebase Development[1]	48,000
Project Management	60,000

[1] Committed to project activities being considered and agreed by the Healthy Bees Plan Project Management Board.

The balance for 2009-10 will focus on advice and training to beekeepers at the start of the new season; completion of Beebase development; and additional diagnostics following the completion of the Random Apiary Survey.

Office of Water Services: Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Office of Water Services (Ofwat) buildings attended by civil servants in Ofwat there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307452]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following tables set out the cost of Ofwat's away days and conferences attended and held by Ofwat and its staff members.

It has not been possible to provide figures for away days/team building and conferences for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06. Previous recording methods did not separately identify such spending.

It has not been possible to separate out all away days attended by Ofwat staff as they are recorded across a number of reporting codes. Team building days have to be signed off by Ofwat's director of operations. The cost of events coded as team building are provided in the following table.

	Expenditure (£)
2006-07	5,094.97
2007-08	866.39
2008-09	10,461.92

Ofwat is only able to provide the total expenditure recorded under its conferences and seminars reporting codes. This includes conferences attended by Ofwat staff but also conferences and seminars held by Ofwat both in its building and externally. This information is given in the following table.

	Expenditure (£)
2006-07	44,341.00
2007-08	39,725.00
2008-09	65,589.00

Pets: Animal Welfare

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's policy is on signing the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals; and if he will make a statement. [305955]

Dan Norris: We recognise that the European convention has been an important catalyst in raising animal welfare standards. The introduction of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in England and Wales—as well as the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006—means that our laws are now consistent with the principles set out in the convention. Nevertheless, there are aspirations in the convention, in particular the resolution on breed standards, which may not necessarily be the most effective way of promoting welfare. We therefore do not consider signing the convention to be a priority for Government.

Rights of Way

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents involving animals resulted in *(a)* injury and *(b)* death on (i) public rights of way and (ii) land to which the public has access in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what the requirements for reporting such incidents are. [307615]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The statistics gathered under reporting arrangements cannot distinguish between rights of way and other open access land. The following information is for incidents involving animals where the injured person was classed as a member of the public and the incident was related to agriculture.

	Reported injuries	*Fatal*
2004-05	18	0
2005-06	17	3
2006-07	24	2
2007-08	23	0
2008-09	10	2

Besides responsibilities of employers in respect of employees, the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR) place a legal duty on those in control of premises where work is going on to report to the enforcing authorities for health and safety at work all serious injuries to members of the public arising out of or in connection with the work activity. This would apply to injuries causing the death of the person or requiring their removal to hospital for treatment. The requirement is to report the incident by the quickest practicable means.

The Incident Contact Centre, which was set up by the Health and Safety Executive in 2001, provides a one-stop reporting service for work-related health and safety incidents in the UK. Reports can be made by phone, letter, fax, on-line or email.

Rural Payments Agency: Data Protection

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken to ensure the security of farmers' personal data held by the Rural Payments Agency since the data losses in July 2009. [307337]

Dan Norris: Though no farmers' data are believed to have been lost, the Rural Payments Agency has put in place a number of improvements to the way farmers' personal data are secured. The core IT infrastructure supplier has been instructed to increase the physical security access to our data centres. Tracking and logging processes for all removable media at all sites, including the transit between sites, has been strengthened. In addition, confirmatory reporting of all dispatches and receipts has been introduced.

Sheep: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many attacks there were by dogs on sheep in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* the north west in the latest period for which figures are available. [307359]

Dan Norris: The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 provides for the protection of livestock from attack by dogs. Centralised records are not kept on species-specific livestock attacks by dogs. However, the following table shows the number of defendants cautioned, proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in relation to the wider category of 'Dogs worrying livestock on agricultural land', for the North West Government Office Region and for Lancashire during the latest period (2007) for which figures are available.

Number of defendants cautioned[1, 2], proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for 'Dogs worrying livestock on agricultural land', North West Government Office Region (G.O.R) 2007[3, 4]

	Cautioned	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
North West GOR[5]	2	7	5
Of which			
Lancashire PFA[6]	1	4	3

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[5] Includes the following police force areas: Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire.

[6] PFA: Police Force Area.

Source:
Ministry of Justice

Total Allowable Catches

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what representations he has received on negotiations under the Common Fisheries Policy on Area 7 Nephrops total allowable catch quota for 2010; [307302]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Minister for Agriculture on the December EU Fisheries Council. [307303]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I am well aware of the importance of the Nephrops fishery in the Irish Sea to UK fishermen. I visited Portavogie earlier in the year to see this at first hand and have since received a significant number of representations both from the relevant sections of the fishing industry and hon. Members either with constituency or policy interest. The Commission had originally proposed a 30 per cent. cut in the total allowable catch (TAC) for the stock and although it was not possible to argue away the cut altogether, working closely with Michelle Gildernew (Minister for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) and deploying more up-to-date science, we succeeded in limiting the reduction to 9 per cent. In the circumstances this was a very credible result. In the meantime, we will also be exploring the potential for supplementing the UK's quota with international swaps from other member states. However, for the future, it will be important to balance the short-term interests of the fishermen, with the longer term sustainable management of the stock.

The Minister for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development was present throughout the December Council and she and I have been in regular contact in the lead-up to the negotiations to discuss the full range of Northern Irish interests.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the development of an electronic system to record waste transfer rates, with particular reference to the compilation of a comprehensive and contemporary database. [307127]

Dan Norris: The "Electronic Duty of Care" is a pilot project which is part of The Waste Crime Innovation Programme funded by DEFRA and managed by the Environment Agency. The project is supported by an industry-led advisory team.

Work started in May 2009, with six waste companies volunteering to take part across South East England, and is planned to be extended in the new year. The pilot aims to test the effectiveness of waste tracking technologies and should deliver business benefits to waste companies, including substantially reducing regulatory compliance costs. With more accurate and timely data, business should be able to invest with greater confidence in infrastructure to recover and re-use wasted raw materials.

The Environment Agency has recently sought funding through the European Union LIFE+ Programme to develop a national system from January 2011. This would support the rollout of a nationally integrated system for the electronic capture of waste transfer data. This will potentially displace a large proportion of the current paper-based system and considerably reduce the administrative burden to business, industry and Government. If successful we will use an open tender process to develop and maintain the waste monitoring database.

Waste Disposal: Fixed Penalties

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fixed penalty notices for household waste offences were issued in each Government Office region in each of the last three years. [308744]

Dan Norris: DEFRA does not hold such information.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme holds on those local authorities which have used their powers to fine households for breaching a (A) no side waste collection policy and (B) closed lid policy. [308767]

Dan Norris: Neither DEFRA nor the Waste and Resources Action programme hold the information requested.

Whales: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to update his Department's document "Protecting whales—a global responsibility" prior to the International Whaling Commission in June 2010; and if he will make a statement. [307287]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA's publication "Protecting whales—a global responsibility" sets out the ecological, economic and moral arguments for protecting whales. Since its publication in 2007, the UK's position on whaling has remained strong and we continue to support the arguments set out in the publication.

The main objectives of the publication were to raise awareness of the situation in the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and persuade 'like-minded' conservation countries of the merits of joining the organisation. Both these objectives have been achieved with a number of 'like-minded' conservation minded countries recently joining the IWC.

An update of the publication "Protecting whales—a global responsibility" will be considered following the outcome of the discussions on the reform of the IWC currently taking place.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on whaling in the last 12 months; whether he plans to hold further such discussions before the 2010 International Whaling Commission meeting; and if he will make a statement. [307296]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Following last year's International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting, I wrote to all hon. Members, which included a report on the latest developments within the IWC. I will write again in the build-up to this year's meeting.

In June 2009, I also met the hon. Peter Garrett, MP, Australian Minister for the Environment, to discuss whaling and the IWC.

PRIME MINISTER

Government Departments: Cost-effectiveness

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister how many staff worked on the Operational Efficiency Programme; how many *(a)* meetings and *(b)* video conferences were held as part of the work of the programme; how much was spent on travel costs for the programme's advisers to attend meetings; and how much was spent on the programme. [307370]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The operational efficiency programme final report was the product of work led by five advisers: Dr. Martin Read, Mr. Martin Jay, Mr. Gerry Grimstone, Lord Carter of Coles and Sir Michael Bichard. They worked without pay, but their expenses were recoverable. They were supported by a team based from HM Treasury. At its peak this team numbered 12. Given the cross-cutting nature of the review and the number of organisations involved, HM Treasury does not centrally hold figures showing the total cost, number of meetings or number of video-conferences held.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what arms-length bodies the Government plans to abolish, with reference to page 54 of "Putting the Front Line First: Smarter Government", Cm 7753. [307575]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The recent White Paper "Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government" pledged to reduce the number of arm's length bodies by over 120. The bodies that are affected, subject to the necessary legislation and consultation required, are as follows:

15 Agricultural Wages Committees in England.

16 Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees in England are being abolished.

The number of Advisory Committees for the Appointment of Justices of the Peace will be reduced from 101 to 49.

Four Court Boards will be removed by 1 April 2010, reducing them from 23 to 19 in line with new court regional areas.

Her Majesty's Courts Inspectorate is to be abolished.

The Sentencing Advisory Panel and Sentencing Guidelines Council will be merged.

The Postgraduate Medical Education Training Board is being merged with the General Medical Council.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is committed to reducing by 30 or more the number of separate publicly funded sector skills bodies over the next three years. Individual bodies have not yet been confirmed, but further details can be seen in chapter 6 of the BIS "Skills for Growth" White Paper (CM 7641)[1].

Four museums sponsored by the Ministry of Defence are being merged into the new National Museum of the Royal Navy—the separate museums are:

Royal Marines Museum

Royal Naval Museum

Royal Naval Submarine Museum

Fleet Air Arm.

In total this represents a reduction of 123 separate arm's length bodies. In Budget 2010 there will be a further report on arm's length bodies, which will include further mergers and reductions of bodies. We will also announce ALB governance reforms, which will set out a tougher regime for establishing new bodies, and drive out value for money and efficiencies from the sector as a whole.

[1] Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (November 2009), "Skills For Growth: The National Skills Strategy". London: the Stationary Office (CM 7641).

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister whether his planned consultation on Smarter Government will include proposals on access to data held on the monetary value of contracts let by or on behalf of the Government with private sector *(a)* consultants and *(b)* contractors. [307372]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

Treasury officials are currently in the process of putting together proposals on publishing further financial data. These proposals will be agreed with Ministers prior to the launch of the consultation.

TRANSPORT

Cars: Licensing

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many cars have ceased to be licensed in each year since 1985. [307033]

Paul Clark: The following table gives annual estimates of the number of registration marks that were on a car which ceased to be licensed, or which underwent a "cherished transfer" to another vehicle. Data are not available prior to 1995.

	Number of car registration marks that ceased to be licensed	*Estimated number of "cherished transfers" of car registration marks to other vehicles*
1995	2,768,000	85,000
1996	2,549,000	98,000
1997	2,726,000	112,000
1998	2,984,000	136,000
1999	2,860,000	134,000
2000	3,012,000	115,000
2001	3,028,000	167,000
2002	3,177,000	191,000
2003	3,385,000	217,000
2004	3,203,000	253,000
2005	3,189,000	264,000
2006	3,289,000	294,000
2007	3,281,000	298,000
2008	3,264,000	284,000

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

The first data column counts cars that were not licensed at the end of the years shown, but whose registration mark was licensed (possibly on another vehicle) 12 months earlier. The vehicles that have become unlicensed may have been scrapped, exported or otherwise taken off the road. However, it is possible for unlicensed vehicles to become relicensed again in later years.

The second data column counts the number of "cherished transfers" of registration marks from cars to other vehicles in the years shown. However, cherished transfer registration marks which are held on retention (rather than being transferred directly to other vehicles) are counted in the first column. The available data do not record what happened to vehicles whose registration mark was the subject of a cherished transfer. Some such vehicles would have been taken off the road, but others would have received a new registration mark and been relicensed. The figures are presented as rounded estimates, rather than exact counts, in view of this uncertainty.

Christmas

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305635]

Chris Mole: The information requested for the whole Department, including its agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [307653]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 15 December 2009]*: The information requested for the whole Department, including its agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the hours during which tariffs may be charged for motorists' use of the Dartford-Thurrock Crossing are *(a)* determined by a European Union directive and *(b)* constrained for the purposes of congestion management; and if he will make a statement. [305758]

Mr. Khan: The charge at the Dartford Crossing is a road user charge designed to combat traffic congestion. Although current EU directives apply to certain tolls and user charges in the UK, none apply so as to determine the hours during which the road user charge at Dartford may apply. The road user charge applies between 6 am and 10 pm when traffic levels generally exceed the crossing's capacity. There is no charge during the hours of 10 pm to 6 am to encourage traffic to avoid peak times.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Willis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many residential properties his Department owns; and how many *(a)* are occupied and *(b)* have been empty for more than six months. [304001]

Chris Mole: The Driving Standards Agency and the Highways Agency own residential properties.

The Driving Standards Agency owns the freehold of two residential flats situated above a Driving Test Centre. The flats are let on long leases (circa 80 years), and both are occupied.

The Highways Agency owns 428 residential properties, of which 325 are occupied.

103 have been empty for more than six months.

Of these 103:

Six currently are being marketed to let.

Four properties are awaiting demolition.

34 are vacant in the disposal process.

Two properties are un-lettable because they are inaccessible due to road construction works.

44 are vacant awaiting repair. 26 of these are in an improvement programme for this financial year and will be available to let by 31 March 2010. The remaining 18 will be considered for improvement in 2010-11.

13 properties are beyond economic repair.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307514]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport can only provide the detail of away days and conferences held outside the Department's building attended by civil servants since 2005 by incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306712]

Chris Mole: The Central Department and its Agencies recorded the following number of individuals in our respective redeployment pools in each of *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009:

	Total number of staff in redeployment pool
January 2009	29
April 2009	19
July 2009	19
October 2009	40

Invalid Vehicles: Driving Offences

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a new offence of riding a mobility scooter in a dangerous way. [308941]

Mr. Khan: We have no plans to introduce a new offence of riding a mobility scooter in a dangerous way.

An offence under paragraph 35 of the Offences Against the Persons Act 1861—"Drivers of carriages injuring persons by furious driving"—already exists in law.

We are aware that the use of powered mobility vehicles is growing. In view of this we are now expecting to consult on issues such as compulsory insurance and training, a more comprehensive registration scheme and on the design and safety standards of mobility vehicles. Our aim will continue to be to balance the mobility needs of scooter users with the safety needs of pedestrians and other road users.

M20: Lorries

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the cost was of the moveable concrete barrier on the M20, pursuant to Operation Stack, how many times it has been deployed; and what assessment he has made of its effectiveness. [306964]

Chris Mole: The installation cost of the moveable concrete barrier on the M20 pursuant to Operation Stack was £6,848,084.

The moveable barrier has been used three times since its introduction in September 2008. The first time was for a period of 10 weeks following the Channel Tunnel fire closure in late 2008. The moveable barrier has been assessed as being highly effective in achieving the safe but rapid implementation of Operation Stack Phase 1 on the M20, so avoiding widespread travel disruption in Kent.

M4

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether any section of the M4 in the London Borough of Hillingdon would fall within a public safety zone under the terms of his Department's Public Safety Zone policy as set out in circular 1/2002 on Control of Developments in Airport Public Safety Zones if a third runway is constructed at Heathrow Airport. [308122]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport (DfT) only establishes Public Safety Zones (PSZs) for existing airport runways. For proposed new runways it would be a matter for the airport operator—BAA in the case of Heathrow—to produce draft Public Safety Zone contours as part of any future planning application. DfT Circular 1/2002 on "Control of Developments in Airport Public Safety Zones" sets out the PSZ policy in relation to transport infrastructure at paragraph 19.

M5: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what works are being undertaken between junctions 13 and 11 of the M5; when the work is expected to be completed; what the estimated cost of their work is; and which contractors have been commissioned to complete it. [307731]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 16 December 2009]:* The following works are being undertaken between junctions 13 and 11 of the M5—installation of Variable Message Signs which are due for completion by the end of March 2010. The work is being undertaken by Balfour Beatty Mott MacDonald at a cost of £3.275 million.

To take advantage of the traffic management arrangements for these works, new barriers at Naas Lane and Harefield Lane between junctions 11a and 12 are also being installed by the same contractor to protect bridge piers from collision damage at a cost of £1.5 million.

National Cycle Plan

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to publish the National Cycle Plan; and if he will make a statement. [307993]

Mr. Khan: We will publish with the Department of Health a joint Active Travel Strategy and National Cycle Plan in the new year.

Roads: Accidents

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent representations he has received on amending the civil law on accident liability by any driver of a moving motorised vehicle in collision with a cyclist; and if he will make a statement. [307992]

Paul Clark: No recent representations have been received suggesting reform of the civil law on accident liability on this issue.

Seat Belts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent steps his Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to publicise the dangers to motorists of slipping a seat belt shoulder strap under their arm whilst driving; and if he will make a statement. [308228]

Paul Clark: The Department's leaflet 'Seat Belts and Child Restraints' explains that the diagonal strap should lie across the chest and away from the neck. The leaflet is available online at:

www.dft.gov.uk/think

There are no plans for further specific publicity to tell motorists how to use seat belts, although the Department will continue to emphasise the importance of wearing them in its safety campaigns and information.

Thames Crossing

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will visit Castle Point constituency to assess the potential impact on the local environment of a new £4 billion Thames Crossing as proposed by Metrotidal; and if he will make a statement. [307990]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport announced in April 2009 its intention to investigate further three potential options for possible new additional crossing capacity in the Lower Thames area.

In reaching its decision, links between the provision of additional crossing capacity and a possible new Thames Barrier were considered inappropriate, given the prospective timescales for the need for a new Thames Barrier.

In promoting their initiative, it is for Metrotidal to set out their assessment of the potential local environmental impacts of their proposals.

Thames Estuary

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress has been made on the dredge in the Thames estuary for the London Gateway Port channel; what safeguards against disturbances of munitions in the SS Richard Montgomery have been put in place; what recent discussions have been held with Dubai World Ports on the financing of the work; and if he will make a statement. [307991]

Paul Clark: Progress with the dredge of the London Gateway Port channel is a matter for the port developer, London Gateway Port Ltd., subject to the relevant statutory consents.

Standard dredging practice in the Thames estuary covers matters such as handling the incidental lifting of munitions left on the sea bed. I am advised that magnetometer surveys have been conducted in order to provide the best advance information. The exclusion zone for the wreck of the SS Richard Montgomery lies over 2 km from the southern edge of the proposed port access channel.

Financing of the work is also a matter for the port developer.

Transport: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) if he will estimate the level of carbon emissions from *(a)* rail and *(b)* road haulage in each year since 1990 (i) per mile and (ii) in total; [306968]

(2) if he will estimate the amount of carbon emissions from rail haulage in each year since 1990 *(a)* per mile and *(b)* in total. [306969]

Paul Clark: The following tables are based on data from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory and Great Britain and Northern Ireland traffic censuses. They summarise carbon dioxide emissions of diesel rail haulage and heavy goods vehicles for the years requested. The tables exclude carbon dioxide emission figures for electric rail haulage and per kilometre for diesel rail haulage which are not available in the form requested.

UK national emission estimates are updated annually and any developments in methodology are applied retrospectively to earlier years.

		1990	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*
Diesel rail freight	CO_2 emissions (kilotonnes)	798	856	793	704	665	680	740	799	801
HGVs	CO_2 emissions (kilotonnes)	23,268	23,115	22,378	22,060	22,074	22,664	23,046	23,594	23,494
HGVs	Kt of CO_2/billion km	894	901	896	867	851	850	838	838	804

		1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Diesel rail freight	CO_2 emissions (kilotonnes)	772	736	789	754	768	828	883	900	931
HGVs	CO_2 emissions (kilotonnes)	24,071	24,218	24,740	24,777	25,696	25,434	24,791	25,421	26,260
HGVs	Kt of CO_2/billion km	812	811	834	818	838	810	797	811	830

Source:
AEA Energy and Environment.

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street: Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* laptop computers, *(b)* mobile telephones, *(c)* items of office furniture and *(d)* works of art have been (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from No. 10 Downing Street in each of the last three years; whether her Department has made an insurance claim in respect of each such item; and what the estimated value of each such item was. [302933]

Angela E. Smith: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

For information for the period 2004 to 2008, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Paul Holmes) on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 717W.

Figures for 2009 are not yet available.

As has been the practice under successive administrations, the Cabinet Office, in common with other Government Departments, 'self insures'.

Breast Cancer

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were diagnosed with breast cancer in *(a)* Herefordshire county council, *(b)* Shropshire council, *(c)* Telford and Wrekin borough council, *(d)* Cannock Chase district council, *(e)* East Staffordshire borough council, *(f)* Lichfield district council, *(g)* Newcastle-under-Lyme borough council, *(h)* South Staffordshire council, *(i)* Stafford borough council, *(j)* Staffordshire county council, *(k)* Staffordshire Moorlands district council, *(l)* Stoke-on-Trent city council, *(m)* Tamworth borough council, *(n)* North Warwickshire borough council, *(o)* Nuneaton and Bedworth borough council, *(p)* Rugby borough council, *(q)* Stratford-on-Avon district council, *(r)* Warwick district council, *(s)* Warwickshire county council, *(t)* Birmingham city council, *(u)* Coventry city council, *(v)* Dudley metropolitan borough council, *(w)* Sandwell metropolitan borough council, *(x)* Solihull metropolitan borough council, *(y)* Walsall metropolitan borough council, *(z)* Wolverhampton city council, *(aa)* Bromsgrove district council, *(bb)* Malvern Hills district council, *(cc)* Redditch borough Council, *(dd)* Worcester city council, *(ee)* Worcestershire county council, *(ff)* Wychavon district council and *(gg)* Wyre Forest district council area in each year since 1997. [308161]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people were diagnosed with breast cancer in (a) Herefordshire County Council, (b) Shropshire Council, (c) Telford and Wrekin Borough Council, (d) Cannock Chase District Council, (e) East Staffordshire Borough Council, (f) Lichfield District Council, (g) Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, (h) South Staffordshire Council, (i) Stafford Borough Council, (j) Staffordshire County Council, (k) Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, (l) Stoke-on-Trent City Council, (m) Tamworth Borough Council, (n) North Warwickshire Borough Council, (o) Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, (p) Rugby Borough Council, (q) Stratford-on-Avon District Council, (r) Warwick District Council, (s) Warwickshire County Council, (t) Birmingham City Council, (u) Coventry City Council, (v) Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, (w) Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, (x) Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, (y) Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, (z) Wolverhampton City Council, (aa) Bromsgrove District Council, (bb) Malvern Hills District Council, (cc) Redditch Borough Council, (dd) Worcester City Council, (ee) Worcestershire County Council, (ff) Wychavon District Council and (gg) Wyre Forest District Council in each year since 1997. (308161)

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Table 1 provides the numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer for each year from 1997 to 2007 for (a) County of Herefordshire unitary authority, (b) Shropshire unitary authority, (c) Telford and Wrekin unitary authority, (d) Cannock Chase district, (e) East Staffordshire district, (f) Lichfield district, (g) Newcastle-under-Lyme district, (h) South Staffordshire district, (i) Stafford district, (j) Staffordshire county, (k) Staffordshire Moorlands district, (l) Stoke-on Trent unitary authority, (m) Tamworth district, (n) North Warwickshire district, (o) Nuneaton and Bedworth district, (p) Rugby district, (q) Stratford-on-Avon district, (r) Warwick district, (s) Warwickshire county, (t) Birmingham metropolitan district, (u) Coventry metropolitan district, (v) Dudley metropolitan district, (w) Sandwell metropolitan district, (x) Solihull metropolitan district. (y) Walsall metropolitan district, (z) Wolverhampton metropolitan district; (aa) Bromsgrove district, (bb) Malvern Hills district, (cc) Redditch district, (dd) Worcester district, (ee) Worcestershire county, (ff) Wychavon district and (gg) Wyre Forest district.

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1], persons[2], counties and local authorities[3], 1997 to 2007[4]

Persons

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Herefordshire	159	131	130	138	125	143	171	171	157	171	179
Shropshire	203	213	238	266	288	242	256	253	231	271	286
Telford and Wrekin	66	83	117	110	83	102	99	98	131	120	103
Cannock Chase	51	55	54	73	57	69	78	48	85	79	67
East Staffordshire	83	57	56	78	37	67	88	58	95	104	72
Lichfield	56	74	75	83	69	83	69	49	139	89	101
Newcastle-under-Lyme	86	82	96	89	94	113	83	79	137	90	102
South Staffordshire	70	80	65	75	109	74	91	118	115	116	130
Stafford	103	79	94	89	93	112	91	89	158	113	81
Staffordshire	568	514	536	609	596	625	655	589	855	732	686
Staffordshire Moorlands	82	52	59	74	68	65	121	65	78	87	52
Stoke-on Trent	158	182	154	146	163	161	176	215	169	154	192
Tamworth	37	35	37	48	69	42	34	83	48	54	81
North Warwickshire	32	45	43	43	44	48	47	61	43	40	49
Nuneaton and Bedworth	76	68	76	75	66	114	118	71	102	82	79
Rugby	57	79	63	49	58	72	52	70	74	66	89
Stratford-on-Avon	107	85	87	95	84	108	126	80	129	107	103

Table 1: Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1], persons[2], counties and local authorities[3], 1997 to 2007[4]

											Persons
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Warwick	94	97	85	93	124	100	109	121	95	95	106
Warwickshire	366	374	354	355	376	442	452	403	443	390	426
Birmingham	598	637	623	615	601	585	612	591	635	614	635
Coventry	209	191	182	183	179	212	190	205	199	169	207
Dudley	226	219	224	233	235	257	257	262	245	251	252
Sandwell	151	218	190	199	199	179	178	157	205	183	209
Solihull	129	178	199	155	166	192	173	198	184	178	165
Walsall	154	166	165	172	206	177	186	220	208	191	196
Wolverhampton	134	148	162	168	162	162	185	181	156	209	188
Bromsgrove	70	75	58	78	81	65	84	67	67	101	75
Malvern Hills	64	70	68	64	58	63	62	74	72	86	59
Redditch	50	49	49	43	67	62	39	70	61	42	69
Worcester	64	50	78	62	73	66	73	57	78	65	73
Worcestershire	420	403	423	427	451	392	445	507	461	479	505
Wychavon	93	78	88	79	102	79	86	140	104	87	120
Wyre Forest	79	81	82	101	70	57	101	99	79	98	109

[1] Breast cancer is coded as C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Around 99 per cent. of breast cancers cases are in women.
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[4] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were diagnosed with breast cancer in the constituencies of *(a)* Aldridge-Brownhills, *(b)* Birmingham Edgbaston, *(c)* Birmingham Erdington, *(d)* Birmingham Hall Green, *(e)* Birmingham Hodge Hill, *(f)* Birmingham Ladywood, *(g)* Birmingham Northfield, *(h)* Birmingham Perry Barr, *(i)* Birmingham Selly Oak, *(j)* Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath, *(k)* Birmingham Yardley, *(l)* Bromsgrove, *(m)* Burton, *(n)* Cannock Chase, *(o)* Coventry North East, *(p)* Coventry North West, *(q)* Coventry South, *(r)* Dudley North, *(s)* Dudley South, *(t)* Halesowen and Rowley Regis, *(u)* Hereford, *(v)* Leominster, *(w)* Lichfield, *(x)* Ludlow, *(y)* Meriden, *(z)* Newcastle-under-Lyme, *(aa)* Nuneaton, *(bb)* Redditch, *(cc)* Rugby and Kenilworth, *(dd)* Shrewsbury and Atcham, *(ee)* Shropshire North, *(ff)* Solihull, *(gg)* Stafford, *(hh)* Staffordshire Moorlands, *(ii)* Staffordshire South, *(jj)* Stoke-on-Trent Central, *(kk)* Stoke-on-Trent North, *(ll)* Stoke-on-Trent South, *(mm)* Stone, *(nn)* Stourbridge, *(oo)* Stratford-upon-Avon, *(pp)* Sutton Coldfield, *(qq)* Tamworth, *(rr)* Telford, *(ss)* The Wrekin, *(tt)* Walsall North, *(uu)* Walsall South, *(vv)* Warley, *(ww)* Warwick and Leamington, *(xx)* Warwickshire North, *(yy)* West Bromwich East, *(zz)* West Bromwich West, *(aaa)* Wolverhampton North East, *(bbb)* Wolverhampton South East, *(ccc)* Wolverhampton South West, *(ddd)* Worcester, *(eee)* Worcestershire Mid, *(fff)* Worcestershire West and *(ggg)* Wyre Forest in each year since 1997. [308173]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people were diagnosed with breast cancer in the constituencies of (a) Aldridge-Brownhills, (b) Birmingham Edgbaston, (c) Birmingham Erdington, (d) Birmingham Hall Green, (e) Birmingham Hodge Hill, (f) Birmingham Ladywood, (g) Birmingham Northfield, (h) Birmingham Perry Barr, (i) Birmingham Selly Oak, (j) Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath, (k) Birmingham Yardley, (l) Bromsgrove, (m) Burton, (n) Cannock Chase, (o) Coventry North East, (p) Coventry North West, (q) Coventry South, (r) Dudley North, (s) Dudley South, (t) Halesowen and Rowley Regis, (u) Hereford, (v) Leominster, (w) Lichfield, (x) Ludlow, (y) Meriden, (z) Newcastle-under-Lyme, (aa) Nuneaton, (bb) Redditch, (cc) Rugby and Kenilworth, (dd) Shrewsbury and Atcham, (ee) Shropshire North, (ff) Solihull, (gg) Stafford, (hh) Staffordshire Moorlands, (ii) Staffordshire South, (jj) Stoke-on-Trent Central, (kk) Stoke-on-Trent North, (ll) Stoke-on-Trent South, (mm) Stone, (nn) Stourbridge, (oo) Stratford-upon-Avon, (pp) Sutton Coldfield, (qq) Tamworth, (it) Telford, (ss) The Wrekin, (It) Walsall North, (uu) Walsall South, (vv) Warley, (ww) Warwick and Leamington, (xx) Warwickshire North, (yy) West Bromwich East, (zz) West Bromwich West, (aaa) Wolverhampton North East, (bbb) Wolverhampton South East, (ccc) Wolverhampton South West, (ddd) Worcester, (eee) Worcestershire Mid, (fff) Worcestershire West and (ggg) Wyre Forest in each year since 1997. (308173)

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer (incidence) are for the year 2007. Please note that these numbers may not be the same as the number of people diagnosed with cancer, because one person may be diagnosed with more than one cancer.

Table 1 provides the numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer for each year from 1997 to 2007 in the parliamentary constituencies of (a) Aldridge-Brownhills, (b) Birmingham Edgbaston, (c) Birmingham Erdington, (d) Birmingham Hall Green, (e) Birmingham Hodge Hill, (f) Birmingham Ladywood, (g) Birmingham Northfield, (h) Birmingham Perry Barr, (i) Birmingham Selly Oak, (j) Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath, (k) Birmingham Yardley, (l) Bromsgrove, (m) Burton, (n) Cannock Chase, (o) Coventry North East, (p) Coventry North West, (q) Coventry South, (r) Dudley North, (s) Dudley South, (t) Halesowen and Rowley Regis, (u) Hereford, (v) Leominster, (w) Lichfield, (x) Ludlow, (y) Meriden, (z) Newcastle-under-Lyme, (aa) Nuneaton, (bb) Redditch, (cc) Rugby and Kenilworth, (dd) Shrewsbury and Atcham, (ee) North Shropshire, (ff) Solihull, (gg) Stafford, (hh) Staffordshire Moorlands, (ii) South Staffordshire, (jj) Stoke-on-Trent Central, (kk) Stoke-on-Trent North, (ll) Stoke-on-Trent South, (mm) Stone, (nn) Stourbridge, (oo) Stratford-on-Avon, (pp) Sutton Coldfield, (qq) Tamworth, (rr) Telford, (ss) The Wrekin, (tt) Walsall North, (uu) Walsall South, (vv) Warley, (ww) Warwick and Leamington, (xx) North Warwickshire, (yy) West Bromwich East, (zz) West Bromwich West, (aaa) Wolverhampton North East, (bbb) Wolverhampton South East, (ccc) Wolverhampton South West, (ddd) Worcester, (eee) Mid Worcestershire, (fff) West Worcestershire and (ggg) Wyre Forest.

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer[1], persons[2], parliamentary constituencies[3], 1997 to 2007[4]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Persons 2007
Aldridge-Brownhills	43	61	60	56	79	66	51	83	85	51	87
Birmingham Edgbaston	79	47	69	66	56	64	70	48	57	69	79
Birmingham Erdington	59	74	53	63	60	55	71	53	59	87	41
Birmingham Hall Green	55	65	51	56	71	53	63	77	46	53	77
Birmingham Hodge Hill	49	60	52	41	54	43	34	41	61	52	50
Birmingham Ladywood	30	33	36	43	34	33	35	26	34	35	40
Birmingham Northfield	50	41	59	52	37	59	51	44	65	41	39
Birmingham Perry Barr	54	46	63	59	51	48	48	58	62	64	53
Birmingham Selly Oak	59	62	59	65	57	57	79	53	69	55	54
Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath	38	62	48	38	40	42	46	53	37	36	52
Birmingham Yardley	48	67	43	52	48	52	48	60	53	53	47
Bromsgrove	70	75	58	78	81	65	84	67	67	101	75
Burton	79	55	53	73	32	63	81	55	94	92	66
Cannock Chase	54	56	56	79	58	69	81	52	87	89	69
Coventry North East	58	61	60	48	60	54	63	82	56	51	66
Coventry North West	79	70	74	87	56	80	79	52	67	57	65
Coventry South	72	60	48	48	63	78	48	71	76	61	76
Dudley North	66	70	66	67	75	89	63	89	73	61	89
Dudley South	61	61	57	64	62	60	77	76	61	74	71
Halesowen and Rowley Regis	61	73	62	71	59	78	65	55	64	66	59
Hereford	83	83	66	85	64	74	89	91	76	89	92
Leominster	81	58	72	63	66	75	90	89	90	93	95
Lichfield	50	60	67	73	55	71	63	42	120	82	85
Ludlow	64	73	68	94	75	59	82	81	71	63	102
Meriden	57	76	90	74	79	90	87	84	93	77	72
Newcastle-under-Lyme	59	58	66	66	62	81	61	64	96	63	78
Nuneaton	57	56	54	62	56	96	88	51	82	74	62
Redditch	55	51	52	49	68	69	42	72	63	45	70
Rugby and Kenilworth	71	96	83	69	83	94	65	87	100	65	102
Shrewsbury and Atcham	55	69	92	84	85	97	68	79	80	81	94
North Shropshire	75	59	69	80	79	73	91	83	74	113	74
Solihull	72	102	109	81	87	102	86	114	91	101	93
Stafford	57	57	57	64	82	71	66	68	117	68	74
Staffordshire Moorlands	75	50	54	49	63	66	78	57	71	65	49
South Staffordshire	60	64	55	57	88	60	75	98	98	94	105
Stoke-on-Trent Central	53	62	41	40	44	46	66	64	38	60	54
Stoke-on-Trent North	46	55	54	55	54	59	54	46	90	48	50
Stoke-on-Trent South	64	69	66	54	73	58	62	110	50	51	92
Stone	82	59	73	82	60	84	97	55	95	101	53
Stourbridge	60	49	65	56	69	66	73	65	76	65	69
Stratford-on-Avon	95	77	79	88	77	103	115	76	121	98	96
Sutton Coldfield	77	80	90	80	93	79	67	78	92	69	103
Tamworth	47	51	48	63	88	58	47	93	68	73	103
Telford	31	48	50	54	43	52	41	36	67	52	56
The Wrekin	44	47	76	64	49	63	73	72	70	82	63
Walsall North	63	53	53	60	60	65	72	73	76	73	57
Walsall South	48	52	52	56	67	46	63	64	47	67	52
Warley	39	72	48	62	51	45	55	45	47	52	50
Warwick and Leamington	86	78	70	73	99	75	103	99	74	94	89
North Warwickshire	57	67	68	63	61	74	81	90	66	59	77
West Bromwich East	41	48	54	46	49	57	48	36	67	47	58
West Bromwich West	[illegible]	64	62	66	69	41	54	53	62	69	65
Wolverhampton North East	52	50	55	53	50	47	70	65	64	65	61
Wolverhampton South East	31	31	49	53	40	43	57	39	48	59	42
Wolverhampton South West	51	67	58	62	72	72	58	77	44	85	85
Worcester	64	50	78	62	73	66	73	57	78	65	73
Mid Worcestershire	79	66	72	52	89	64	68	126	80	75	109
West Worcestershire	69	73	74	81	66	67	71	78	88	88	64
Wyre Forest	78	78	81	95	69	55	99	98	76	94	106

Central Office of Information: Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Central Office of Information's (COI) buildings attended by civil servants in the COI there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307464]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 11 December 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question [307464] on conferences that took place outside COI and attended by COI civil servants.

The Central Office of Information (COI) does not hold a central record of away days held outside of COI buildings and attended by civil servants from COI.

COI does hold records of conferences centrally but does not differentiate between attendance by civil servants from COI or those in the wider civil service.

Central Office of Information: Public Relations

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 3 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 886-87W, on public relations (1) what the topic was of each contract awarded to the five firms; and at which diverse audience each was aimed; [308512]

(2) whether Travellers are classed as a culturally diverse audience for the purpose of the Framework Agreement; and at which culturally diverse audiences the marketing will be aimed. [308526]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive on the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 23 December 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question (308512/26) on the Public Relations Framework detailed below.

Framework Agreement 2007/S 156-194886 relates to the Marketing Aimed at Culturally Diverse Audiences Framework outlined below which commenced in 2007.

The framework comprises eight specialist agencies. It is multi-disciplined with advertising, PR, outreach/grassroots activity, sponsorship and partnership marketing. It covers a wide range of ethnic minorities, faith groups, gypsies and travellers, refugees and asylum seekers, and new arrivals to the UK. The framework is split into 5 Lots:

1. Ethnic Minorities
2. Faith Groups
3. Gypsies & Travellers
4. Refugees & Asylum Seekers
5. Recent Arrivals

Gypsies and Travellers are considered a culturally diverse audience, a minority audience in the UK that have a shared culture.

A list of each contract awarded together with the topic and target audience is listed in the table below.

Campaign	*Target audience*
Hepatitis C	South Asian/Pakistani
DH Change 4 Life	Black African/South Asian
National Blood Service	Black African and Caribbean/South Asian
LSC Skills For Life	Black Caribbean/South Asian
Census 2011	All ethnic minority groups
FSA Money Guidance	Ethnic minorities in the NW
Fire Kills Re-tender	South Asian/Somali/Polish
Fire BME Recruitment	South Asian/Black African and Caribbean
RAF Recruitment	South Asian/Black African and Caribbean
DEFRA Illegal Food Imports	Black/Middle Eastern/Chinese
BIS: Pay and Work Rights Migrant Campaign	Eastern European communities: Polish/Slovak/Lithuanian/Romanian/Bulgarian/Latvian/Roma
LSC Careers Advice: Ethnic Advice Line.	South Asian/French Arab/French African/Somali/Farsi/Polish
Cabinet Office: Building Britain's Future	Urban Youth
NHSBT Organ Donation	South Asian/Black African/Caribbean

Charities: Asylum

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what support her Department provides to charities working with destitute asylum seekers. [308755]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office does not hold information on support for charities working specifically with destitute asylum seekers. A number of programmes from the Office of the Third Sector are benefiting organisations working with asylum seekers which may include destitute asylum seekers. Examples of this are Grassroots Grants which provides small grants for organisations working with individuals and communities and the Community Assets Programme which funds the transfer and renovation of unused public sector property to the third sector.

Charity Commission: Political Activities

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1290W, on the Charity Commission, for what reason the declaration of membership of *(a)* the Labour Party and *(b)* the Christian Socialist Movement made by the Chair of the Charity Commission on the Commission's website is not reflected in the declaration of political activity required by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments which she made in July 2009; and if she will make a statement. [308725]

Angela E. Smith: The re-appointment of the Chair of the Charity Commission was undertaken in compliance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments' "Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies (August 2005)". The political activity questionnaire, which should be completed as part of the re-appointment process, asks for information about political activities and does not ask for personal information about voting preferences or membership of political parties.

Death: Cancer

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the mortality rate from cancer was in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [308661]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the mortality rate from cancer was in (a) 1997 and (b) the latest period for which figures are available. (308661)

The table attached provides the age-standardised mortality rate, where cancer was the underlying cause of death, for England and Wales, in (a) 1997 and (b) 2008 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Age-standardised mortality rate per 100,000 population,[1] [2] where cancer was the underlying cause of death,[3] England and Wales[4] 1997 and 2008[5] rate per 100,000 population

	Rate	95 per cent. confidence interval
1997	196	(195-197)
2008	173	(172-174)

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.

[2] Confidence intervals are a measure of the statistical precision of an estimate and show the range of uncertainty around the estimated figure. Calculations based on small numbers of events are often subject to random fluctuations. As a general rule, if the confidence interval around one figure overlaps with the interval around another, we cannot say with certainty that there is more than a chance difference between the two figures.

[3] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 140-208 for 1997 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 for 2008.

[4] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much her Department spent on art works in the last 12 months. [308578]

Angela E. Smith: No expenditure has been incurred on art works in the last 12 months.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was spent by her Department and its agency on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308821]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is not centrally held and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the advertising, marketing and publicity budget is of the *(a)* Real Help Now and *(b)* Building Britain's Future campaign in 2009-10. [302491]

Angela E. Smith: Both Real Help Now and Building Britain's Future are cross-government campaigns.

There is no specific advertising, marketing and publicity budget held within Cabinet Office for either Real Help Now or Building Britain's Future (BBF).

Costs associated with Real Help Now and BBF for which Cabinet Office is liable have been met from the over arching departmental communications budget.

To date, £112,282.50 of this budget has been committed to BBF activity and Cabinet Office has spent £105,704 (excluding VAT) on publicity and marketing for the Real Help Now campaign.

Departmental Pay

Kate Hoey: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials in her Department have received allowances to buy a second home in London in each of the last five years. [302576]

Angela E. Smith: No officials in the Cabinet Office have received an allowance to buy a second home in the last five years.

Departmental Plants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much No. 10 Downing Street spent on *(a)* cut flowers and *(b)* pot plants in 2008-09. [306278]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is not readily available and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many days sickness absence were taken by staff in her Department and its agency in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to her Department was of such absence. [305547]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office publishes reports on levels of sickness absence on a quarterly basis. These reports can be accessed at this website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/absence.aspx

Copies of the previous four quarterly reports have been placed in the Library of the House.

Data on the total cost of individual staff absences could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

John Mason: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many questions tabled for answer on a named day her Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions her Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305382]

Tessa Jowell: 274 named day questions were tabled to Cabinet Office for the period 1 December 2008 to 30 November 2009. Of these 175 received substantive answers on the day.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what percentage of Parliamentary Questions tabled for written Answer by her Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive Answer on that day. [307548]

Tessa Jowell: 252 named day questions were tabled to Cabinet Office for the session 2008-09. Of these 157 received substantive answers on the day.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she expects the Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance to be revised to reflect the new arrangements for recovery and Local Resilience Force, in accordance with recommendation 80 of the Pitt Report. [306332]

Angela E. Smith: The revised Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance was published in August 2009 on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/response.aspx

Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she expects the National Hazards Team to conclude its review of critical infrastructure at risk from future floods; whether *(a)* public and *(b)* private (i) reservoir and (ii) dam safety will be included in that audit; and if she will make a statement. [302143]

Ms Butler: The Natural Hazards Team in the Cabinet Office is developing a programme to improve the resilience of critical infrastructure and essential services to severe disruption from natural hazards.

The Natural Hazards Team is co-ordinating the development of Sector Resilience Plans by the lead Government Department for each sector of national infrastructure. These plans are expected to set out the risks from flooding to the most critical sites (i.e. critical national infrastructure) in each infrastructure sector, and a programme of measures that is necessary to improve resilience. These initial sector resilience plans will include public and private reservoirs where the sites are deemed to be critical national infrastructure.

The Natural Hazards Team will conclude its review of critical infrastructure and risks from natural hazards with the publication of a National Resilience Plan in late 2010. This plan will set out the Government's policy and standards for the resilience of critical infrastructure. It will be based upon the evidence submitted in Sector Resilience Plans and the responses to the current consultation on the draft Strategic Framework and Policy Statement on Improving the Resilience of Critical Infrastructure to Disruption from Natural Hazards.

Following Sir Michael Pitt's recommendation 58, the draft Floods and Water Management Bill will include provisions relating to dam and reservoir safety.

Floods: Cumbria

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what role the National Hazards Team will play in recovery from the recent floods in Cumbria. [302142]

Ms Butler: The main role of the Natural Hazards Team within the Cabinet Office is to develop a programme to improve the resilience of critical infrastructure and essential services to severe disruption from natural hazards.

Members of the team shared information on critical national infrastructure at risk of flooding with regional and local responders at the onset of the recent flood emergency in Cumbria. Within Government, the Department for Communities and Local Government is leading on the recovery from the floods, including in conjunction with the lead Government Departments for each sector of national infrastructure, to ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible; the Natural Hazards Team will be available to advise, if required.

Government Departments: Computer Software

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of *(a)* her Department's and *(b)* other Government departments' software was open source software (i) in February 2009 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [307323]

Angela E. Smith: Information on the current and future use of open source software in my Department and in other Government Departments is not held centrally and can be collected only at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office follows the Government's Open Source Software (OSS) Policy (the most recent version was published in February 2009), which requires that Government consider OSS solutions alongside proprietary ones in IT procurements, and award contracts on a value-for-money basis. They do not therefore have plans in place to raise the level of OSS use, but rather will make software procurement decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Government Departments: Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many different intrusion detection systems operate across Government departments in guarding against computer hacking. [307920]

Angela E. Smith: It would not be in the interest of the UK's national security for Departments to give information on the specific systems used to protect their networks.

The Security Policy Framework requires that Departments have effective information security policies and procedures in place including preventing unauthorised access to ICT systems. The Data Handling Report published in June 2008 requires that Departments conduct independent penetration testing of their systems to protect against hacking and other forms of malicious attack.

Hakluyt

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1228W, on Hakluyt, if she will publish the submission to the Minister of State setting out *(a)* the (i) reasons and (ii) justifications for not providing the information requested in question 296746 and *(b)* the estimated cost of providing the information requested, as required in accordance with section 7.28 of the Cabinet Office's Guide to Parliamentary Work. [302818]

Angela E. Smith: Officials' advice to Ministers is not normally disclosed. The previous question (296746) was responded to as disproportionate costs because the information requested is not held centrally. To obtain the information would have required contacting each management unit and then each management unit manually interrogating their records. This interrogation would have exceeded the disproportionate cost threshold of £750.

Intelligence Services: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to her Department's press release of 10 October 2007, what the outcome was of the most recent review of the Single Security and Intelligence Budget; and if she will make a statement. [304021]

Angela E. Smith: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees, covering the Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development, including the number of meetings held and topics discussed, is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

The Security and Intelligence Agencies represents the largest component of the Single Security and Intelligence Budget. It has been the policy of successive Governments not to reveal details of the Security and Intelligence Agencies' spending, beyond what is already published.

National School of Government: Valuation Office

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what courses representatives of the Valuation Office Agency attended at the National School of Government in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [308708]

Angela E. Smith: This is a matter for the National School of Government. I have asked the Principal and Chief Executive to assist by writing to the hon. Gentleman.

Letter from Rod Clark, dated December 2009:

In the Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 9 January 2007 (Official Report Col 5WS), the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Pat McFadden MP) announced that the National School of Government was now a Non Ministerial Department. Consequently, the Minister for the Cabinet Office has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about the National School of Government.

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has sent staff on a number of events at the National School of Government. A copy of the table which sets out the events will be placed in the House Library.

Pay

John Battle: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will establish a commission to inquire into high pay; and if she will make a statement. [307439]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

Pre-Budget report 2009 announced a set of fundamental reforms for pay-setting of senior public sector staff focusing on:

New scrutiny of pay levels above £150,000 and bonuses above £50,000

New requirements to publish salaries of senior public sector staff to increase transparency and accountability

The Prime Minister will ask Bill Cockburn as chair of the Senior Salaries Review Body to lead a review of senior pay across the public sector, reporting by Budget 2010.

Public Expenditure

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many civil servants earned over £150,000 in the last 12 months; and what the total monetary value was of the budgets of *(a)* central government departments, *(b)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* local government. [307617]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested in relation to the number of civil servants earning over £150,000 falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

The information requested in relation to budgets of *(a)* central government departments, *(b)* agencies and non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* local government is a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning, how many civil servants earned over £150,000 in the last 12 months; what the total monetary value was of the budgets of (a) central government departments, (b) agencies and non-departmental public bodies and (c) local government. (307617)

The Office for National Statistics collects the annual salaries of civil servants, as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES). At 31 March 2008, 100 civil servants earned over £150,000.

Information requested with respect to the total monetary value of the budgets of (a) central government departments, (b) agencies and non departmental public bodies and (c) local government is a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer and not the Office for National Statistics.

UK Statistics Authority: Hotels

Anne Main: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the UK Statistics Authority has spent on hotel accommodation for its staff in each of the last five years. [305705]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 16 December 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how much the UK Statistics Authority has spent on hotel accommodation for its staff in each of the last five years. 305705

We changed our accounting system in 2006 and do not have complete information prior to that date. Prior to that date we can only provide spend made with our main supplier.

£000

	Main supplier	*Other suppliers*
2004-05	586	n/a
2005-06	505	n/a
2006-07	536	184
2007-08	545	211
2008-09	496	216

UK Statistics Authority: Internet

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what redesigns of websites operated by the UK Statistics Authority have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306205]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question requesting to list the redesigns of websites operated by the UK Statistics Authority since 27 June 2007; and what the (a) cost to the public purse and (b) date of completion of each such redesign was. (306205)

The Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 lead to the creation, on 1 April 2008, of the UK Statistics Authority, of which the Office for National Statistics is the Executive Office. On the same date, the Authority launched a new Publication Hub which provides a single portal to new National Statistics releases. This was part of a wider programme of web delivery activities undertaken by ONS, including work to redesign the ONS website and supporting back office processes. The cost of this wider programme, incurred up to financial year-end 2008-09, was £4.643m.

Ongoing enhancements and redesign of elements of the Publication Hub have been undertaken by ONS on behalf of the UK Statistics Authority, as part of a wider Web Programme. This resulted in an enhanced version on 27 July 2009. The costs associated with this amount to £218,000.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Benefits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when her Department first determined that there would be no cash losers from the implementation of reforms proposed in the Green Paper, "Shaping the future of care together"; and if she will make a statement. [307202]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* As we said in the Green Paper, if we reform disability benefits, anyone receiving an affected benefit at the time of reform would continue to receive the equivalent level of support and protection thereby not experiencing a cash loss as a result of the reforms.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will review her Department's policy of excluding councillors' allowances from earnings in the calculation of child maintenance liabilities; and if she will make a statement. [303773]

Helen Goodman: We are still considering how allowances will be treated in the future scheme, currently planned for introduction in 2011. Maintenance calculations will be largely based on gross income information, received directly from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. Future scheme regulations to be laid before Parliament between late 2010 and early 2011 will include definitions of the income to be taken into account. These regulations will of course be subject to public consultation.

There are no plans to review this policy in respect of the current statutory child maintenance scheme.

Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of households were in receipt of a 100 per cent. council tax reduction on the latest date for which figures are available. [308704]

Helen Goodman: The estimated number of people receiving 100 per cent. council tax benefit is 4.3 million, constituting 17.1 per cent. of households in Great Britain.

Notes:

1. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

2. The caseload figure is rounded to the nearest one hundred thousand.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE): September 2009.

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to her Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if she will make a statement. [307970]

Jim Knight: DWP began collecting 10-day payment performance information from November 2008. DWP 10-day payment performance, by volume and as a percentage of all payments made for all of its suppliers, from November 2008 to the present date is as follows:

	Volume of invoices	*Percentage paid within 10 days*
2008		
November	44,457	70
December	45,505	64
2009		
January	43,915	73
February	58,281	86
March	61,768	92
April	50,393	94
May	46,448	96
June	63,855	96
July	67,597	96
August	59,798	95
September	66,170	97
October	80,344	97
November	90,070	97

Departmental Internet

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306157]

Jim Knight: Since 27 June 2007 the following websites operated by this Department or its Agencies have been redesigned:

Completion	*Website*	*Cost (£000)*
June 2009	DWP Corporate	216
March 2008	Office for Disability Issues	147

Departmental Theft

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have (i) been reprimanded, (ii) had their contract of employment terminated and (iii) been prosecuted for theft of departmental property in each of the last three years; and what items were stolen in each case. [300967]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) records the numbers of staff disciplined for theft under the general heading of fraud, theft and loss of DWP funds. To extract more detailed information from individual records under this category could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The number of people disciplined for fraud, theft and loss to DWP funds in each of the last three years is as follows:

			Business		
	Child Support Agency	*Corporate Shared Services*	*Jobcentre Plus*	*Pensions, Disability and Carers Service*	*DWP total*
2006-07	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	0	1	9	0	10
2008-09	1	1	9	2	13

Information on how many officials have been prosecuted for theft of departmental property in each of the last three years, and what items were stolen in each case, is not available in the exact format requested; such information as is available is set out in the following table which shows the number of staff convicted in the last three years for theft of cash, consumables or instruments of payment that were subsequently cashed.

	Items stolen	*Number of staff convicted*
April 2006 to March 2007	Cash	2
	Girocheques	2
April 2007 to March 2008	Girocheques	2
	Pre-paid envelopes	1
April 2008 to March 2009	—	0

Departmental Translation Services

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by her Department on providing translation services for its customers in each of the last 12 years. [304380]

Jim Knight: The DWP provides a range of language translation services for customers across Great Britain (as Northern Ireland is excluded), namely:

1. Face to Face
2. Telephone.
3. Translating by a range of services which includes the translation of departmental information leaflets and other documents that are provided to customers in a range of ethnic languages, audio and Braille, as well as all publications for Welsh speaking customers living in Wales.
4. We are also able to offer an ad hoc service to convert documents into Easy Read format.

The contractual arrangements for the services have been developed over a number of years and as a result spend has not been applicable for some of these services in each of the last five years or data have not been able to be gathered for spend during some years. Disproportionate cost would be incurred in trying to identify such spend.

We are also unable to provide data prior to 2003-04 as data were not held centrally prior to then.

The range of services also includes the translation of departmental information leaflets that are provided to customers into a range of ethnic languages, as well as all publications for Welsh-speaking customers.

NDPB's have access to our frameworks but we do not hold centrally any data relating to their specific spend, if any, via these services. To ascertain this would incur disproportionate cost.

The information requested is given in the following table:

						£
Type of translation service	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Face to face and telephone	2,643,448	2,967,756	3,443,334	4,496,008	3,515,722	3,761,765
Ethnic document translation	[1]n/a	n/a	120,720	267,500	134,945	[2]459,554
Welsh	24,973	30,855	20,766	50,759	65,789	66,755
Braille	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	45,309	59,522
Audio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	35,572	33,397
Easy Read	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Totals	2,668,421	2,998,611	3,584,820	4,814,267	3,797,337	4,380,993

[1] Not available without incurring disproportionate cost as data not held centrally or are combined within other category data and not possible to separate.

[2] This figure includes all translation spend for the International Pensions Centre (IPC) which previously was not held centrally—total £381,370.59 for 2008-09.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her Department's policy is on referring to an independent advocate those persons in need of support when applying for employment and support allowance. [304773]

Jim Knight: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Torbay (Mr. Sanders) on 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 724W.

Employment and Support Allowance: Medical Examinations

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals against an original outcome of a work capability assessment have been upheld to date. [305267]

Jonathan Shaw: The most recent data published on appeal outcomes following a Work Capability Assessment was published in October 2009 and is provided as follows:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/esa_wca_arc.asp

Work Capability Assessment appeals heard on 'Fit for Work' decisions—data to end of August 2009

	Number
Appeals heard	4,900
DWP decision upheld	3,300
Decision in favour of appellant	1,500

Notes:
1. Includes clerical assessments, we can infer that an appeal that links to a clerical assessment was very likely to be against a 'fit for work' decision.
2. Due to the time it takes for appeals to be submitted to Tribunal Service and heard, a very limited volume of appeals heard data are held currently. Volumes will increase in the coming months as more appeals are processed giving a more robust picture of appeal volumes and outcomes.

Employment Schemes: Tourettes Syndrome

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provision is made in the training of disability employment advisers to enable them to recognise and support people with Tourette syndrome seeking employment; and if she will make a statement. [306533]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning what provision is made in the training of disability employment advisers to enable them to recognise and support people with Tourette syndrome seeking employment. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Disability Employment Advisers (DEAs) are not specifically trained to recognise customers with Tourette Syndrome, however they are equipped to identify and either deal with or signpost customers to specialist help to address a diverse range of circumstances. Jobcentre Plus policy is to develop its people with the skills required to support a range of customers and to respect their individual needs.

The learning programme for Jobcentre Plus DEAs focuses on customers requiring more extensive support regarding their personal circumstances and the challenges they may have in their ability to look for and move into sustainable employment.

Equality 2025

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have had with representatives of Equality 2025; and if she will make a statement. [302790]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* Equality 2025 is an advisory non-departmental public body established in response to a recommendation in the 2005 report by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit "Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People". It is sponsored by (but is not part of) the Office for Disability Issues, part of the Department for Work and Pensions.

I meet with the chair and deputy chair of Equality 2025 on a quarterly basis; the most recent meeting took place on 30 November. In addition, the chair and some members of Equality 2025 recently accompanied me to a number of events around the country. I also attended, and spoke at, Equality 2025's Annual Public Meeting in October 2009.

Meetings take place between Equality 2025 members and officials within the Office for Disability Issues and the Department for Work and Pensions on a range of matters, such as the UN Convention on Disability Rights, the Independent Living Strategy, the Hate Crime Strategy, the Equality Bill, and communication strategies. Equality 2025 members are also members of the ad hoc advisory groups supporting the Independent Living Strategy and Right to Control project.

As a cross-government group, Equality 2025 also meets with Ministers and officials beyond DWP. The chair has a standing invitation to the Life Chances ministerial group which I chair and is attended by Ministers from each 'Life Chances' department. The group meets quarterly. Equality 2025 members also have bi-lateral discussions with officials across Government in support of the Equality 2025 Workplan and in response to requests for advice from Government Departments.

More formally, the Minister for Disability and I have recently been reviewing the work of Equality 2025 and its achievements over the last three years. With the agreement of Equality 2025, we are now taking the opportunity to further develop its strategic role as an 'expert group' and to streamline its size. Instead of running regional engagement events to find out disabled people's views, the group will build strong links with key disability organisations, umbrella groups and others across the United Kingdom. This will enable them to acquire a more representative picture of disabled people's views.

Future Jobs Fund

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made towards the target of 10,000 Future Jobs Fund jobs being green jobs. [304395]

Jim Knight: One fifth of all jobs created by rounds two and three of the Future Jobs Fund are green jobs. The information is not yet available for other rounds.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made towards the target of 15,000 Future Jobs Fund jobs created by social enterprises. [304396]

Jim Knight: We know that just over a sixth of all jobs created by rounds two and three of the Future Jobs Fund are in social enterprises. This information is not yet available for other rounds.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions by what mechanism the quality of Future Jobs Fund bids was assessed. [305106]

Jim Knight: The quality of Future Jobs Fund bids is assessed in four stages: initially against minimum criteria, followed by a regional assessment against six qualitative criteria. The scores are then moderated by a panel including a trade union representative, before being agreed by the Regional Minister (or Secretary of State in Scotland and Wales). Finally, each bid's score is quality-checked by the central team, who moderate the scores across regions to a set of recommendations. A Central Assessment Panel consisting of officials from the Department for Work and Pensions (Project team, Finance and Commercial), Jobcentre Plus, HM Treasury, the Department of Communities and Local Government, Wales Office and Scotland Office then review the bids and make their recommendations to departmental Ministers.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedure her Department has established to monitor and record the number of weeks a young person remains in a job created under the Future Jobs Fund; and if she will make a statement. [306357]

Jim Knight: To monitor length of time spent on Future Jobs Fund we will be using data returned monthly by employers on start and end dates for each customer referred to them.

Health and Safety Executive: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what payments the Health and Safety Executive has made to *(a)* Weber Shandwick and *(b)* Mandate Communications/AS Biss in the last 12 months for which figures are available; for what purpose; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the contracts under which such payments have been made. [305147]

Jonathan Shaw: HSE has retained Weber Shandwick on a number of projects over the last 12 months. Across those projects, Weber Shandwick has provided the services of: public relations support, support with key stakeholder engagement, consultation, event production and national media support across Scotland, England and Wales. Those projects were:

HSE strategy consultation and launch
Agricultural safety campaign
Lord Gill Inquiry (ICL Plastics explosion)
Tower Crane register consultation
Caiman Commission

The combined cost of this work is £323,722.82.

It is not appropriate to place copies of the relevant contracts in the Library of the House, for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

HSE made no payments to Mandate/AS Biss in the last 12 months.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of social tenants were receiving housing benefit on the latest date for which figures are available. [308053]

Helen Goodman: 69.2 per cent. of social tenants were receiving housing benefit in Great Britain at August 2009.

Source:
Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 771W, on housing benefit: travelling people, what methodology is used to calculate housing benefit for those who live in mobile homes or caravans. [308799]

Helen Goodman: Like any tenant or licensee, the rental costs of those liable to pay a social sector landlord are generally met in full, while those liable to a private sector landlord are individually referred to the rent officer.

Incapacity Benefit

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants there were in each year since 1997; and how many of them *(a)* reached retirement age, *(b)* died and *(c)* found a job in each of those years. [304394]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information on the number of incapacity benefit claimants who reached retirement age in each year since 1997 is provided in the table. Information on the number of claimants who died or found employment in each year is not available.

At May each year	*Total caseload*	*Total numbers of claimants who are female aged 59 or male aged 64*
1997	2,837,900	[1]—
1998	2,784,600	[1]—
1999	2,744,400	[1]—
2000	2,728,090	119,250
2001	2,795,340	122,678
2002	2,807,620	127,804
2003	2,815,660	125,083
2004	2,814,710	122,806
2005	2,783,720	117,610
2006	2,730,000	127,038
2007	2,685,320	123,984
2008	2,637,560	116,873

At May each year	*Total caseload*	*Total numbers of claimants who are female aged 59 or male aged 64*
2009	2,374,210	108,952

[1] Number of claimants who are female aged 59 or male aged 64 is not available for May 1997 to May 1999.

Notes:

1. May 1997 to May 1999 figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and subject to sampling variation.
2. May 1997 to May 1999 figures have been uprated using 5 per cent. proportions against 100 per cent. WPLS totals.
3. May 2000 to May 2009 figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Data do not include claimants of employment and support allowance introduced from October 2008.

Sources:

May 1997 to May 1999 figures from Information Directorate 5 per cent. samples.

May 2000-May 2009 figures from Information Directorate 100 per cent. samples.

Total caseload data are published at www.nomisweb.co.uk from May 1998.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 298-9W, on industrial diseases: compensation, if she will make the guidance provided to ATOS Healthcare doctors available to the coal mining trade unions and their solicitors. [302880]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 3 December 2009]:* As part of a programme for approved health care professionals (HCPs) to carry out medical assessments, the Department for Work and Pensions has produced "Update to Standard—Prescribed Disease A14 (PD A14)", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

The Department is also in the process of producing a further distance learning guide "PD A14 Osteoarthritis of the Knee in Miners (MED-PDA14-001)". As this guide is due for future publication, it is at the moment exempt from release. The guide will be available to interested parties upon publication.

Industrial Health and Safety: Hazardous Substances

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment the Health and Safety Executive has made of BP's contract to lease the Oikos terminal on Canvey Island; and if she will make a statement. [306319]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The Health and Safety Executive has made no assessment of BP Oil UK Ltd's contract to lease storage facilities at Oikos Storage Ltd's site on Canvey Island.

It is not the HSE's role to assess this and will assess any significant changes that are made to the site and to the sites' CO commercial contracts. HSE's role is to monitor safety at this site. HSE will continue to do MAH safety report as a result of the implementation of this contract.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what safety measures will be put in place by BP for the duration of its contract to lease the Oikos terminal on Canvey Island. [307405]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 16 December 2009]:* Oikos Storage Ltd. will remain the operator of the fuel storage facility on Canvey Island for the purposes of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (COMAH) and will have overall responsibility for safety throughout the duration the contract with BP Oil UK Ltd. As a user of the facility to store fuel, BP Oil UK Ltd. will be obliged to co-operate with Oikos Storage to assist and enable them to meet their responsibilities as COMAH operator.

Oikos Storage Ltd. will be required under the COMAH to put in place all measures necessary to prevent major accidents and limit their consequences to persons and the environment. This will include implementing and maintaining the minimum safety and environmental standards for fuel storage sites that have been developed in response to the Major Incident Investigation Board recommendations following the explosion and fires at the Buncefield fuel storage site in December 2005, and recently published in the Process Safety Leadership Group's (PSLG) final report. The PSLG report is available on the HSE website.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time was for which claimants resident in Leeds West constituency were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* each of the last 12 months and *(b)* each of the last five years. [306582]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average length of time was for which claimants resident in Leeds West constituency were in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in (a) each of the last 12 months and (b) each of the last five years. (306502)

The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) is taken from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. The length of a claim has been defined as the time between the start of an individual's claim and the count date in each reference month. Table 1 shows the median length of live claims during the last 12 months up to the latest available period in October 2009, and for October of each of the last 5 years.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk.

Table 1: Median length of claims of jobseeker's allowance of persons[1] resident in Leeds West constituency

	Median length of claim (months)
October 2004	13.4
October 2005	17.5
October 2006	20.6
October 2007	17.2
October 2008	13.3
November 2008	12.8
December 2008	11.9
January 2009	12.3
February 2009	12.6
March 2009	13.5
April 2009	13.8
May 2009	16.4
June 2009	17.5
July 2009	17.4
August 2009	17.4

Table 1: Median length of claims of jobseeker's allowance of persons'[1] resident in Leeds West constituency

	Median length of claim (months)
September 2009	17.8
October 2009	17.2

[1] Length of claim data is only available for computerized claims, which account for 99.7 per cent. of all claims.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative System

Low Incomes: Water Charges

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the effect of levels of water charges on households in poverty. [304713]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has not held recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the effect of levels of water charges on households in poverty. However the Department for Work and Pensions has been contributing during this year to the Independent Review of Water Charging, commissioned by Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and the Welsh Assembly. The review team, led by Anna Walker, published its final report on 8 December. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

Means-Tested Benefits

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number and proportion of *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* working age adults (i) with and (ii) without children who have received (A) means-tested benefits and (B) more than 50 per cent. of their income from means-tested benefits in (1) 1979, (2) 1983, (3) 1987, (4) 1992, (5) 1997, (6) 2001, (7) 2005 and (8) the latest year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [306667]

Angela Eagle: The available information is in the following tables.

	Number of pensioner benefit units in receipt of any income related benefits	*Percentage of pensioner benefit units in receipt of any income related benefits*	*Number of pensioner benefit units with more than 50 per cent. of their income from income related benefits*	*Percentage of pensioner benefit units with more than 50 per cent. of their income from income related benefits*
1997-98	2,600,000	37	300,000	4
2001-02	2,300,000	32	300,000	4
2005-06	2,600,000	35	300,000	4
2007-08	2,500,000	33	300,000	4

	Number of working age benefit units (with children) in receipt of any income related benefits	*Percentage of working age benefit units (with children) in receipt of any income related benefits*	*Number of working age benefit units (with children) with more than 50 per cent. of their income from income related benefits*	*Percentage of working age benefit units (with children) with more than 50 per cent. of their income from income related benefits*
1997-98	2,100,000	30	1,300,000	19
2001-02	1,600,000	23	1,100,000	15
2005-06	1,500,000	21	900,000	12
2007-08	1,500,000	20	800,000	10

	Number of working age benefit units (without children) in receipt of any income related benefits	*Percentage of working age benefit units (without children) in receipt of any income related benefits*	*Number of working age benefit units (without children) with more than 50 per cent. of their income from income related benefits*	*Percentage of working age benefit units (without children) with more than 50 per cent. of their income from income related benefits*
1997-98	2,300,000	15	1,300,000	9
2001-02	1,900,000	12	1,100,000	7
2005-06	2,000,000	12	1,200,000	7
2007-08	2,000,000	12	1,200,000	7

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100,000. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest per cent.
2. A benefit unit is defined as a single adult or a couple living as married and any dependent children.
3. Income-related benefits include: Back-to-work bonus, extended payment of council tax benefit, extended payment of housing benefit, income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit, rates rebate, disability working allowance, social fund grant for funeral expenses, social fund grant for maternity expenses, jobseeker's allowance (income-based), community care grants, return to work credit, child maintenance bonus, tax credits are excluded.
4. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 26,000 households. Since 2002-03 the FRS has covered the United Kingdom; prior to 2002-03 the FRS covered Great Britain.
5. Part of the fall in the number and percentage of working age benefit units with children in receipt of at least one income-related benefit between 1997-98 and 2001-02 may be explained by the replacement of family credit with tax credits in 1999. Tax credits are excluded from the definition of income-related benefits in these tables.
6. The Family Resources Survey is known to under-record benefit receipt so the estimates presented should be treated with caution.
Source:
The Family Resources Survey

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she expects to reply to the letter of 3 November 2009 from the hon. Member for Walsall, North concerning a constituent. [304960]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 8 December 2009]*: A reply was sent to my hon. Friend on 16 December 2009.

New Deal for Lone Parents

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of participants in the New Deal for Lone Parents have *(a)* undertaken a work trial and *(b)* undertaken a work trial for six weeks. [304378]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

New Deal Schemes: Wales

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have entered employment as a result of participating in the New Deal in (a) Newport East constituency and (b) Wales in each year since its introduction. [303475]

Jim Knight: The available information can be found in the following tables:

New deal: Jobs gained, Newport, East parliamentary constituency

	Number (thousand)
1998	160
1999	380
2000	330
2001	310
2002	320
2003	420
2004	540
2005	540
2006	470
2007	490
2008	360
2009	100
Total	4,410

New deal: Jobs gained, Wales

	Number (thousand)
1998	5,740
1999	13,170
2000	12,610
2001	13,790
2002	17,200
2003	20,230
2004	22,240
2005	20,320
2006	16,930
2007	18,210
2008	16,560
2009	5,660
Total	182,660

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The latest new deal figures will be affected by the introduction of the new jobseekers regime and flexible new deal (gradual implementation started from April 2009). More information is available on the employment programme statistics landing page.
3. The year means the calendar year the job was gained.
4. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
5. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
6. The latest data available are to May 2009.
7. The total number of jobs gained refers to the sum of all jobs (spells) obtained through new deal for young people, new deal for 25-plus, new deal for lone parents, new deal for disabled people, new deal for 50-plus and new deal for partners.
8. Spells are not available for new deal 50-plus and new deal for partners so individual level data are used instead.
9. Participants may have had more than one spell on new deal.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

Pensioners: Poverty

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Chesterfield constituency, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England her Department estimated to be in absolute poverty at the latest date for which information is available. [307166]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* Estimates of poverty, published in the Households Below Average Income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in poverty at Government office region level. Therefore, information for the Chesterfield constituency and Derbyshire region are not available.

The Government use a basket of three key thresholds of income, after housing costs, to measure pensioner poverty. Absolute poverty is referred to as 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices.

The latest information for the East Midlands Government office region is based on the three year average from 2005 to 2008, and shows that 100,000 pensioners (11 per cent. of pensioners in the region) have incomes falling below the absolute poverty threshold. The latest information for England shows that 800,000 pensioners (9 per cent. of pensioners) have incomes falling below the absolute poverty threshold.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data, sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined for regional statistics as single year estimates are subject to volatility.
2. Small changes in estimates from year to year, particularly at the bottom of the income distribution, may not be significant in view of data uncertainties.
3. Numbers of pensioners have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions of pensioners in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.

Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the total savings to her Department against expenditure on *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* housing benefit and *(c)* council tax benefit consequent on a 2.5 per cent. increase in 2010-11 in (i) additional pension, (ii) increments to basic pension, (iii) increments to additional pension, (iv) increments to graduated retirement benefit, (v) increments to the inheritable lump sum, (vi) contracted-out deduction from additional pension in respect of pre-April 1988 contracted-out earnings, (vii) contracted-out deduction from additional pension in respect of contracted-out earnings from April 1988 to 1997, (viii) graduated retirement benefit, (ix) increase of long-term incapacity for age, (x) basic pension addition at the age of 80 years, (xi) increase of long-term incapacity for age and (xii) invalidity allowance (transitional) for state pension recipients. [308335]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Personal Accounts

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions from what budgets funding for the proposed personal accounts will be drawn. [307344]

Angela Eagle: The cost of establishing the personal accounts scheme is currently being met via a loan from the Department for Work and Pensions. The loan will be repaid by the trustee corporation through charges levied on scheme members.

Poverty

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definitions of poverty are used in her Department; and if she will make a statement. [307092]

Helen Goodman: It is generally accepted that low income is central to any poverty measurement. Definitions of low income households are set out in the annual National Statistics publication 'Households Below Average Income'. This reports numbers of individuals in households below or persistently below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median household income both before and after deducting housing costs.

The public service agreement (PSA) 17, 'Tackle poverty and promote greater independence and wellbeing in later life', sets out indicators of pensioner poverty for which the Department for Work and Pensions is responsible alongside a range of other non-poverty indicators which are shared between the Department for Work and Pensions and other Government Departments. As no single measure captures all aspects of poverty, the PSA includes a range of indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 50 and 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices). Further information is given in the Government's PSA Delivery Agreement 17, which is available in the Library.

The joint PSA 9 between the Treasury, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Children, Schools and Families to halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020, sets out indicators of child poverty. These are relative low income (below 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income), absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), and combined low income and material deprivation (based on below 70 per cent. of contemporary median household income). The Child Poverty Bill includes targets on these three measures and, in addition, a target will also be set using a persistent poverty measure (below 60 per cent. of median income in three or four out of the last four years). The indicators of child poverty reflect the fact that income is a key aspect of child poverty. The combined low income and material deprivation indicator provides a wider measure of families' living standards. The latest version of the Child Poverty Bill (10 December 2009) is available from the Public Bill Office. Further information is given in the conclusions document of the Department's 'Measuring Child Poverty' consultation, which is available in the Library.

Poverty: West Yorkshire

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were living in poverty in (i) England, (ii) the West Yorkshire region and (iii) Leeds West constituency in each year since 1997. [306934]

Helen Goodman: Specific information regarding low income for the UK is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95 to 2007/08". This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the numbers and proportions of individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median income, and the proportions in persistent poverty. For children, it also contains a measure of combined low income and material deprivation.

Estimates of poverty, published in the households below average income series, only allow a breakdown of the overall number of people in poverty at Government office region level. Therefore, information for the Leeds, West constituency and West Yorkshire region are not available. The Government are in the process of developing a child poverty indicator for use at the local level within the local area agreements; capturing children in households in receipt of out of work benefits or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent. of median income.

The information covering parts *(a)*, *(b)* and (i) of the question is given in the following table for periods where data are available.

Proportion of adults and children who are living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, before housing costs, England, 1997-98 to 2007-08

		Percentage
	Adults	*Children*
1997-98	17	26
1998-99	17	26
1999-2000	17	25
2000-01	17	23
2001-02	17	23
2002-03	16	22
2003-04	16	22
2004-05	16	21
2005-06	16	22
2006-07	17	22
2007-08	17	22

Social Security Benefits

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much on average was received by an individual claimant of *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* housing benefit and *(c)* income support weekly in the latest period for which figures are available. [306925]

Jonathan Shaw: The most recent available information is in the table. Figures relate to the weekly amount of benefit paid.

Average weekly amount of income support, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and housing benefit

	£
Income support (IS)	85.17
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA)	95.23

Average weekly amount of income support, incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and housing benefit

	£
Housing benefit (HB)	81.41

Notes:
1. The amount of IB/SDA and income support is affected by the introduction in April 2003 of child tax credit. From that date there were no new child dependency increases awarded to IS claimants, although existing CDIs were transitionally protected.
2. Average amounts are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
3. IB/SDA excludes credit only cases and also excludes employment and support allowance.
4. Average weekly amounts will include some claims relating to partners and other dependents.

Sources:
(HB) Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) taken in August 2009.
(IS and IB/SDA) DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study as at May 2009.

Social Security Benefits: Autism

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to assist people with autism when applying for benefits and seeking employment. [304231]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

State Retirement Pensions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the average net change in income of a pensioner receiving no more than the basic state pension in each year since 1997. [306269]

Angela Eagle: Pensioners receiving no more than the basic state pension have been defined as those individual pensioners whose total individual income was below the basic state pension threshold for each relevant year.

The information that is available is shown in the following table. Figures are presented in 2007-08 prices in order to allow comparison over time. The information has been derived from the Family Resources survey and is presented as a three year average to help take account of small sample sizes that exist for subsets of the population.

For context, the basic state pension threshold in 2007-08 was £87.30.

It should be noted that the data are based on individual incomes. As shown in Table 1 above, just 4 per cent. of the individuals' income in this group in 2005-08 provided the total household income. That is, 96 per cent. of this group live in households with other income earning adults and therefore their overall household income is likely to be much higher. The vast majority of this second group are female.

When considering income, household income is most commonly used. This is because the living standards of an individual depend not only on his or her own income, but also on the income of others in the household. Consequently, considering an individuals income is often not indicative of that individuals overall living standards.

The figures in Table 1 should therefore be used to signify the change in this income level, rather than as an indicator of the average level of income that an individual has to live on and consequently a gauge of living standards.

	Average weekly income of individual pensioners with incomes below the basic state pension threshold in each given time period (in 2007-08 prices) (£)	*Proportion where income from individual is the only household income (percentage)*	*Change in average individual income (£)*
1995-98	50	2	—
1996-99	50	2	0
1997-2000	51	2	1
1998-01	51	2	0
1999-02	53	2	2
2000-03	54	2	1
2001-04	53	2	-1
2002-05	54	3	1
2003-06	54	3	1
2004-07	58	4	3
2005-08	57	4	-1

Notes:
1. Please note that figures on change may not match exactly due to rounding.
2. Incomes and change in income are rounded to the nearest pound.

The figures suggest that while there have been two time periods where the average income has fallen, over the entire period since 1995-98, the average income has risen by £7 in real terms.

Winter Fuel Payments: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Nottingham North constituency are receiving the higher levels of winter fuel payments; and what the average increase in the level of that payment per pensioner has been in the last three years. [308499]

Angela Eagle: The basic winter fuel payment of £200 for households with someone aged 60 to 79 and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over has remained the same for the last three years. However, for this winter, and for winter 2008-09, an additional payment of £50 for households with those aged 60 to 79 and £100 for households with someone aged 80 or over has been made, taking payments to £250 and £400 respectively.

For winter 2008-09, 17,100 people in Nottingham North constituency received a winter fuel payment. Of these, 3,550 received the higher winter fuel payment which is for those aged 80 or over.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made on the number of people who were waiting *(a)* between one and 30 days, *(b)* between 30 and 60 days, *(c)* between 60 and 120 days, *(d)* for more than six months and *(e)* for more than 12 months for an appeal in respect of the outcome of their work capability assessment after a health professional on an employment tribunal has deemed a person fit for employment. [303280]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is not available.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will make an assessment of the financial position of people waiting for an appeal to be heard in respect of the outcome of their work capability assessment after a health professional at an employment tribunal has deemed a person fit for employment. [303282]

Jonathan Shaw: For employment and support allowance, where a customer does not satisfy the work capability assessment, but continues to provide medical evidence that they should refrain from work, entitlement to benefit continues at the assessment phase rate pending the outcome of the appeal. This policy was introduced to ensure that customers have ongoing financial support until the outcome of their appeal is decided.

If the appeal is decided in the customer's favour, arrears are backdated to the date from which the higher rates are awarded.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she will respond to Question 301334, tabled by the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire on 19 November 2009, on departmental working practices. [305877]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* I replied to the hon. Member's question on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 243-4W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Action Plan Orders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many action plan orders relating to those aged *(a)* 10 or 11, *(b)* 12 to 14 and *(c)* 15 to 17 years old have been (i) given and (ii) breached in each year since 1997. [302443]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number of action plan orders that have been given to young people by courts, broken down by financial year and age group. Data on breaches of action plan orders are not held centrally. Action plan orders were introduced in pilot areas from 1998 and nationally from 2000. Complete data are not available on numbers of orders made prior to the financial year 2000-01.

Action plan orders

Age group	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
10-11	138	181	73	66	59	55	58	47
12-14	2,320	3,015	1,448	1,465	1,555	1,695	1,592	1,553
15-17	4,928	6,276	3,877	3,679	3,704	3,879	3,989	3,882
Total	7,386	9,472	5,398	5,210	5,318	5,629	5,639	5,482

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many alcohol-related crimes were recorded as being committed by 16 to 24 years olds in *(a)* Northamptonshire, *(b)* the East Midlands and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last three years. [308649]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available from the recorded crime statistics collected centrally by the Home Office. With the exception of the specific offence of 'causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs', it not possible to identify those offences which are alcohol-related. In addition, details of the age of the alleged offender are not collected centrally.

Animal Experiments: Wales

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many infringements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Wales were recorded in 2008; and how many of those resulted in a prosecution. [306301]

Meg Hillier: During 2008 there was one infringements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 recorded for a designated establishment in Wales. It did not result in a prosecution.

Anti-Terrorism Control Orders

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have *(a)* been subject to a control order and *(b)* absconded (i) in the UK and (ii) abroad while subject to a control order since the implementation of such orders. [304022]

Mr. Hanson: As of 10 September 2009, the last date covered by the most recent written ministerial statement on control orders, 44 individuals had been subject to a control order.

Seven individuals have absconded from control orders, with the most recent abscond taking place in June 2007. One of the individuals who absconded subsequently turned himself in to the police.

In relation to the locations and status of these individuals, I would refer the hon. Member to written ministerial statements in relation to control orders published on 11 December 2006, 16 January 2007, 22 March 2007, 24 May 2007, 21 June 2007 (two statements), 17 September 2007 and 13 March 2008. These statements give as much information as we can provide about the individuals concerned given the national security sensitivities of these cases and the need to avoid publishing any information that could lead to the identification of an individual who is subject to an anonymity order.

Arrests: Football

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to publish statistics relating to football-related arrests and banning orders for 2008-09. [302445]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Football-related arrest and banning order statistics for the 2008-09 football season were published on 22 December 2009.

Asylum

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps he has taken to reduce the asylum backlog; whether any additional staff have been assigned to this task in the last three months; and if he will make a statement. [306627]

Mr. Woolas: Lin Homer updated the Home Affairs Select Committee on 19 October 2009 on steps the UK Border Agency has taken to reduce the asylum backlog. Lin Homer will provide a further update to the Committee in January 2010.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has set a timetable for the consideration of the backlog of non-Arab Darfuri asylum claims in respect of the new Operation Guidance Note on Sudan. [307094]

Mr. Woolas: The backlog of asylum claims from Darfuris will be considered in line with existing priorities as set out by the Case Resolution Directorate. All cases will be dealt with on their own individual merits and in accordance with these priorities.

British Nationality: Assessments

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the benefits to migrants to the UK of the use of citizenship tests. [303810]

Mr. Woolas: We consider citizenship tests to be an important element in helping people to integrate into their wider community in the UK. Passing the citizenship test ensures that migrants have an understanding of life in the UK and the requisite skills, including English, to allow them to fully integrate. Preparing for the test gives applicants the practical knowledge needed to live in the UK and to take part in society.

The consultation document "Earning the Right to Stay—A New Points Test for Citizenship", published in August 2009, set out proposals for changes to the test process and outlined how a two stage citizenship test might fit within the new system for earned citizenship set out in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009.

The consultation closed on 26 October and responses are being analysed.

Chief Scientific Adviser

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions he has met *(a)* the Government chief scientific adviser and *(b)* his Department's chief scientific adviser in the course of his official duties in the last 12 months. [303960]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 7 December 2009]:* In the last 12 months the Home Secretary has had one discussion with the Government chief scientific adviser over a specific policy issue, in addition to meeting frequently at the Home Secretary's Weekly Security meetings.

In the last 12 months the Home Secretary has met the Home Office chief scientific adviser on seven occasions to discuss specific policy issues. This is in addition to meeting frequently at the Home Secretary's Weekly Security meetings and meeting at the National Crime Reduction Board.

Crime

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many crimes were recorded *(a)* in total and *(b)* per capita in (i) Wales and (ii) England in each year since 1997; [306645]

(2) how many recorded incidents of robbery there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head in (i) Wales and (ii) England in each year since 1997. [306646]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The available information relates to offences recorded by the police and the number of offences and rates per 1,000 population are given in the following tables. Rates per 1,000 population is the usual method of presenting these data.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police—1997

	1997	
Area and numbers	*All offences*	*Robbery*
Wales		
Number of offences	236,936	811
Rate per 1,000 population	81	0.3
England		
Number of offences	4,361,391	62,261
Rate per 1,000 population	89	1.3

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

	1998-99		*1999-2000*		*2000-01*		*2001-02*	
Area and numbers	*All offences*	*Robbery*	*All offences*	*Robbery*	*All offences*	*Robbery*	*All offences*	*Robbery*
Wales								
Number of offences	261,994	853	255,487	909	238,449	890	241,432	1,030
Rate per 1,000 population	90	0.3	87	0.3	81	0.3	82	0.3
England								
Number of offences	4,847,095	65,982	5,045,698	83,368	4,932,394	94,264	5,283,592	120,329

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
Area and numbers	*All offences*	*Robbery*	*All offences*	*Robbery*	*All offences*	*Robbery*	*All offences*	*Robbery*
Rate per 1,000 population	98	1.3	102	1.7	99	2.0	106	2.4

Notes:

1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2008-09

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
Area and numbers	*All offences*	*Robbery*	*All offences*	*Robbery*	*All offences*	*Robbery*	*All offences*	*Robbery*	*All offences*	*Robbery*	*All offences*	*Robbery*	*All offences*	*Robbery*
Wales														
Number of offences	294,780	1,377	289,263	1,280	267,624	1,084	258,024	1,137	258,473	1,354	243,623	1,260	236,613	1,215
Rate per 1,000 population	102	0.5	99	0.4	91	0.4	87	0.4	87	0.5	82	0.4	79	0.4
England														
Number of offences	5,602,916	106,652	5,645,314	99,914	5,291,998	87,889	5,220,763	94,895	5,092,680	98,069	4,639,675	82,446	4,400,988	78,031
Rate per 1,000 population	114	2.2	114	2.0	106	1.8	104	1.9	101	1.9	91	1.6	86	1.5

Note:

The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Crime: Knives

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes involving the use of a knife were recorded by each police division in England in each of the last 10 years. [306464]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office has collected data on knife and sharp instrument offences since April 2007 via a special additional data collection. Data are therefore only available for two years.

In 2007-08, the data collection covered the following offences: attempted murder, GBH and robbery. In 2008-09, the collection was expanded to include threats to kill, ABH, rape and sexual assaults. There were also changes in how both GBH with and without intent was recorded by forces following clarification of counting rules. Therefore, the figures between the two years are not comparable.

There is a further reason why the figures are not fully comparable. Some forces in 2007-08 included, for technical reasons, a number of 'unbroken' bottle offences, which is outside the defined scope of the collection. For 2008-09, the majority of forces within England could supply data excluding unbroken bottles, with four Home Office forces still unable to remove them from their returns.

The data for each police force in both England and Wales are published in 'Crime in England and Wales 2008-09' at the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109chap7new.xls

Data for 2007-08 are shown in Table 7.11 and data for 2008-09 are shown in Table 7.12.

These figures do not include homicide, as these are collected from the separate Homicide Index. The 1998-99 to 2007-08 homicide data for each police force in England are shown in Table A.

Homicide figures for 2008-09 are pre-announced to be published on 21 January 2010.

Table A: Offences currently recorded as homicide[1] involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument, 1998-99 to 2007-08[2]

Police force	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Cleveland	1	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
Durham	2	0	1	2	3	0	2	3	5	0
Northumbria	5	9	5	4	8	8	6	7	10	14
North East Region	8	12	11	9	14	11	11	13	18	18
Cheshire	3	0	0	3	2	5	3	7	4	2

Table A: Offences currently recorded as homicide[1] involving the use of a knife or sharp instrument, 1998-99 to 2007-08[2]

Police force	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Cumbria	1	5	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	3
Greater Manchester	14	10	14	23	19	17	15	11	13	15
Lancashire	2	1	15	4	10	12	11	1	4	13
Merseyside	11	6	14	3	12	10	14	10	10	9
North West Region	31	22	46	34	45	45	44	29	31	42
Humberside	2	2	2	3	5	8	3	1	7	6
North Yorkshire	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	0
South Yorkshire	3	4	4	6	7	2	7	6	3	8
West Yorkshire	12	7	8	11	13	7	13	11	12	13
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	17	14	14	20	25	18	26	20	22	27
Derbyshire	1	2	1	4	2	3	2	2	3	1
Leicestershire	1	0	4	2	4	9	3	3	5	3
Lincolnshire	1	2	0	1	2	2	0	0	3	3
Northamptonshire	2	1	3	3	5	1	0	6	6	4
Nottinghamshire	6	5	4	6	3	6	6	7	7	3
East Midlands Region	11	10	12	16	16	21	11	18	24	14
Staffordshire	4	2	0	1	0	3	3	2	5	3
Warwickshire	2	1	0	1	2	2	3	1	5	2
West Mercia	3	1	3	5	2	5	3	0	3	1
West Midlands	16	15	9	19	17	22	21	22	15	15
West Midlands Region	25	19	12	26	21	32	30	25	28	21
Bedfordshire	2	1	2	7	1	1	4	3	3	3
Cambridgeshire	1	4	0	1	2	5	2	2	2	4
Essex	5	9	2	10	7	5	0	6	9	3
Hertfordshire	1	5	4	3	4	4	5	3	6	3
Norfolk	5	2	4	1	0	3	1	1	3	3
Suffolk	0	0	3	2	0	2	2	3	2	2
East of England Region	14	21	15	24	14	20	14	18	25	18
London, City of	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Metropolitan Police	52	68	69	68	68	61	62	57	70	78
London Region	52	68	69	68	68	61	62	57	71	78
Hampshire	3	5	5	7	10	3	7	4	7	7
Kent	3	8	4	10	6	4	4	7	6	5
Surrey	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	3	0	3
Sussex	4	5	5	6	9	3	9	4	3	3
Thames Valley	7	8	3	9	13	3	6	7	8	6
South East Region	18	27	18	34	39	14	30	25	24	24
Avon and Somerset	5	5	3	4	4	4	4	2	4	6
Devon and Cornwall	6	1	5	6	2	3	10	4	5	6
Dorset	1	1	3		3	6	0	0	2	2
Gloucestershire	1	3	0	3	3	2	2	0	2	0
Wiltshire		1	0	3	2	2	3	1	1	2
South West Region	13	11	11	16	14	17	19	7	14	16
England	189	204	208	247	256	239	247	212	257	258

[1] As at 5 January 2009; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

Crimes of Violence: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of *(a)* grievous bodily harm and *(b)* actual bodily harm were recorded by each police division in Cambridgeshire in each of the last 10 years. [306354]

Mr. Hanson: Cambridgeshire is divided into three basic command units (BCUs): central, northern and southern. These were set up in 2000-01, so data at this level are not available prior to this year.

There was a major change in police recorded crime recording practices in April 2002 that means that figures from 2002-03 are not comparable with figures prior to that year.

The introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002 brought in a more victim-focused reporting system, where victim accounts had to be accepted unless there was credible evidence to the contrary. In its first year, this was estimated to have artificially increased recording of violence against the person by 23 per cent.

From 1 April 2008 there were also changes in offence classification which for the first time collected separate information on grievous bodily harm (GBH) without intent (rather than as part of a broader 'other wounding' category) and a clarification in the counting rules for grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent. This led to a step change in the levels of most serious violence for some police forces. This means figures for 2008-09 are not comparable with those for earlier years.

Data for GBH offences for each BCU in Cambridgeshire are given in Table A (1999-2000 to 2001-02) and Table B (2002-03 to 2008-09).

Data for actual bodily harm (ABH) offences for each BCU in Cambridgeshire are given in Table C (1999-2000 to 2001-02) and Table D (2002-03 to 2008-09).

Table A: Number of recorded offences of grievous bodily harm by basic command unit (BCU) in Cambridgeshire, 1999-2000 to 2001-02

BCU	*Offence*	*1999-2000*[1]	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Central	More serious wounding or other act endangering life	—	44	41
Northern	More serious wounding or other act endangering life	—	107	89
Southern	More serious wounding or other act endangering life	—	76	71
Total Cambridgeshire	More serious wounding or other act endangering life	196	227	201

[1] BCUs were set up in 2000-01 so data at this level are not available prior to this year

Table B: Number of recorded offences of grievous bodily harm by basic command unit (BCU) in Cambridgeshire, 2002-03 to 2008-09

BCU		*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[2]
Central	More serious wounding or other act endangering life	58	53	53	54	56	56	—
	Inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	111
	Inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	48
	Racially or religiously aggravated inflicting GBH without intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Total GBH	58	53	53	54	56	56	160
Northern	More serious wounding or other act endangering life	113	150	111	96	66	77	—
	Inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	149
	Inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	69
	Racially or religiously aggravated inflicting GBH without intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
	Total GBH	113	150	111	96	66	77	222
Southern	More serious wounding or other act endangering life	56	74	78	44	54	41	—
	Inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	124
	Inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	43
	Racially or religiously aggravated inflicting GBH without intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	Total GBH	56	74	78	44	54	41	168
Total Cambridgeshire	More serious wounding or other act endangering life	227	277	242	194	176	174	—
	Inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	384
	Inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent	—	—	—	—	—	—	160
	Racially or religiously aggravated inflicting GBH without intent	—	—	—	—	6		

Table B: Number of recorded offences of grievous bodily harm by basic command unit (BCU) in Cambridgeshire, 2002-03 to 2008-09

BCU		*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[2]
	Total GBH	227	277	242	194	176	174	550

[1] Cambridgeshire BCUs were revised in 2006-07, so figures from 2006-07 are not comparable with previous years

[2] A clarification of counting rules in April 2008, in relation to GBH with intent, led to a step change in the levels of GBH offences for some police forces. The offence of more serious wounding or other act endangering life was also disaggregated. Therefore, figures for 2008-09 are not comparable with previous years.

Table C: Number of recorded offences of actual bodily harm by basic command unit (BCU) in Cambridgeshire, 1999-2000 to 2001-02

BCU		1999-2000[1]	2000-01	2001-02
Central	Less serious wounding	—	375	413
	Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding	—	4	4
	Total ABH	—	379	417
Northern	Less serious wounding	—	818	799
	Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding	—	35	23
	Total ABH	—	853	822
Southern	Less serious wounding	—	677	523
	Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding	—	17	14
	Total ABH	—	694	537
Total Cambridgeshire	Less serious wounding	2,105	1,870	1,735
	Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding	72	56	41
	Total ABH	2,177	1,926	1,776

[1] BCUs were set up in 2000-01 so data at this level are not available prior to this year.

Table D: Number of recorded offences of actual bodily harm by basic command unit (BCU) in Cambridgeshire, 2002-03 to 2008-09

BCU		*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[2]
Central	Less serious wounding	1,068	1,694	1,661	1,413	1,302	1,093	—
	Actual bodily harm (ABH) and other injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,102
	Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding	9	21	20	12	13	17	—
	Racially or religiously aggravated ABH or other injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
	Total ABH	1,077	1,715	1,681	1,425	1,315	1,110	1,113
Northern	Less serious wounding	1,498	2,225	2,261	1,926	1,812	1,688	—
	Actual bodily harm (ABH) and other injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,509
	Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding	40	58	39	31	26	21	—
	Racially or religiously aggravated ABH or other injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
	Total ABH	1,538	2,283	2,300	1,957	1,838	1,709	1,533
Southern	Less serious wounding	1,143	1,815	1,907	1,574	1,464	1,496	—
	Actual bodily harm (ABH) and other injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,437
	Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding	14	11	14	20	19	14	—
	Racially or religiously aggravated ABH or other injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
	Total ABH	1,157	1,826	1,921	1,594	1,483	1,510	1,458
Total Cambridgeshire	Less serious wounding	3,709	5,734	5,829	4,913	4,578	4,277	—
	Actual bodily harm (ABH) and other injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,048
	Racially or religiously aggravated less serious wounding	63	90	73	63	58	52	—

Table D: Number of recorded offences of actual bodily harm by basic command unit (BCU) in Cambridgeshire, 2002-03 to 2008-09

BCU		*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[1]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[2]
	Racially or religiously aggravated ABH or other injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	56
	Total ABH	3,772	6,824	5,902	4,976	4,636	4,329	4,104

[1] Cambridgeshire BCUs were revised in 2006-07.

[2] The offence of less serious wounding was disaggregated in April 2008.

Custodial Treatment: Shotgun Certificates

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued in respect of the length of time for which a person who has served a custodial sentence in respect of a motoring offence may be refused a shotgun licence. [306814]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Home Office guidance draws specific attention to the provisions of section 21 of the Firearms Act 1968 which provides that persons who are sentenced to a term of imprisonment of three years or more are prohibited from ever possessing firearms; persons who are sentenced to a term of three months or more but less than three years must not possess firearms until five years have passed since the date of release. Otherwise it is for chief officers to satisfy themselves on the individual merits of each case that an applicant can be permitted to possess a shotgun without danger to public safety or to the peace.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions he visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303488]

Alan Johnson: I visited Scotland in an official capacity on 9 November 2009 and visited Wales on 23 July, 27 September and 25 November 2009. I have not visited Northern Ireland in an official capacity over the past 12 months.

My predecessor visited Scotland on 16 April 2009.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many iPOD must devices have been bought by his Department since 2005; and what the cost to the public purse was of buying the devices. [305983]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department bought 20 video iPODs at a cost of £7,580 plus VAT in 2007.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2008-09. [301844]

Mr. Woolas: The page hits and visitors to the Home Office website (www.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) received in 2008 to 23 November 2009 are shown in the following table.

	Visitors	*Page views*
2008		
January	542,536	2,914,607
February	494,334	2,600,864
March	502,010	2,413,890
April	483,484	1,864,995
May	452,250	1,679,028
June	436,067	1,615,907
July	447,976	1,698,556
August	400,380	1,483,316
September	484,514	1,794,156
October	526,969	1,911,173
November	545,229	1,878,616
December	475,790	1,553,435
Total 2008	5,791,539	23,408,543
2009		
January	623,950	2,046,262
February	583,124	1,951,243
March	653,774	2,208,086
April	571,472	1,829,341
May	568,288	1,706,250
June	515,707	1,600,333
July	502,079	1,511,556
August	485,073	1,448,202
September	516,224	1,478,917
October	556,992	1,622,770
November	428,522	1,252,220
Total 2009	6,005,205	18,655,180
Total	11,796,744	42,063,723
Maximum March 2009	653,774	2,914,607
Minimum August 2008	400,380	1,252,220
Average	512,902	1,828,858

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306168]

Mr. Woolas: The costs and completion dates of website redesigns since 27 June 2007 for the Home Office and its agencies are detailed in the following table. The costs considered and included are as follows:

strategy and planning;

design and build;

content provision;

testing and evaluation.

It is not possible to disaggregate associated staff costs for these redesigns. There are no additional hosting/infrastructure costs as a consequence of the redesigns.

Website	*url*	*Details*	*Date completed*	*Cost (£)*
Home Office	http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk	Updating of Home Office website design to tie-in with revised Home Office branding Improvement of site navigation design technique. Full usability testing of designs.	May 2008	50,325.00
UK Border Agency	http://bia.homeoffice.gov.uk[1]	Rationalising two old sites—www.workingintheuk.gov.uk and www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk--into a single site.	18 December 2007	144,500
Identity and Passport Service	http://www.ips.gov.uk	New site developed to integrate GRO corporate content and reflect the new structure following convergence to Direct.gov and Business Link.	June 2009	206,000.00
Criminal Records Bureau	http://www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk	Site redesign including concepts and template creation	30 June 2009	19,352.00

[1] Now www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

Departmental Training

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location and *(c)* cost was of each of the last four Departmental away days that he attended. [305507]

Mr. Woolas: There have been no away days as such since the Home Secretary arrived in the Home Office. Regular meetings between Ministers and senior officials have all been held on Home Office premises. One of those was preceded by a dinner in central London on the previous evening at a cost of £1,636 for 22 people.

DNA: Databases

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which organisations were able to access data on the National DNA Database on 1 October 2009; [303817]

(2) which organisations were able to access data on the National DNA Database on 1 December 2009. [306628]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Direct access to information on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is restricted to 34 designated personnel working for the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). Police forces and other organisations do not have access to the information on the NDNAD, however they receive reports from the NDNAD Custodian Delivery Unit of matches between DNA taken from crime scenes and that taken from individuals.

On both 1 October and 1 December 2009, the police forces of England, Wales and Scotland, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the British Transport police and 11 additional organisations were authorised to receive match reports from the NDNAD. The 11 additional organisations are listed as follows.

Additional organisations authorised to receive NDNAD match reports on 1 October 2009

Criminal Cases Review Commission
Guernsey Police
HM Revenue and Customs
Isle of Man Constabulary
States of Jersey Police
Joint Armed Services Police
Ministry of Defence Police
Ministry of Defence Police (Scotland)
NDNAD Data Quality Team—Prisoner Sampling Program
Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency
Serious Organised Crime Agency

Foreign law enforcement organisations do not have access to the NDNAD, but may request that a comparison is made between a DNA profile from, for example, an unsolved crime scene or an unidentified deceased person in their country, and profiles on the NDNAD. Such requests are routed through Interpol to the UK National Central Bureau (UK NCB) based at the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

These requests are only processed where it is clear that the request is in the interest of prevention and detection of crime, national security or the data subject. They are also subject to a risk assessment, taking into account the justification for and proportionality of disclosure of the information in line with human rights. If cleared for processing, a one-off search of the NDNAD is made and information on any matches are fed back to UK NCB who will liaise with the foreign law enforcement organisation.

Driving Under Influence

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were stopped and tested for drink driving *(a)* in West Yorkshire, *(b)* in each police authority area and *(c)* in total in each of the last five years. [306944]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is provided in the following tables.

Figures on West Yorkshire and the total in each of the last five years can be found highlighted in the table.

Total breath tests for each police

Police force	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	24,492	27,297	21,928	15,779	15,655
Bedfordshire	6,633	7,764	6,704	3,093	2,578
Cambridgeshire	12,300	12,300	12,500	12,500	12,000
Cheshire	11,854	20,155	22,005	35,747	32,210
Cleveland	8,716	8,056	10,826	11,308	10,140
Cumbria	5,513	8,430	13,577	13,804	16,217
Derbyshire	32,570	31,023	17,685	16,019	15,873
Devon and Cornwall	10,914	10,690	10,423	13,562	16,687
Dorset	8,464	6,938	7,917	8,706	8,038

Total breath tests for each police

Police force	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Durham	7,558	6,080	7,734	6,945	8,160
Essex	15,481	25,337	34,249	28,436	25,946
Gloucestershire	8,647	7,144	9,122	10,090	8,262
Greater Manchester	20,900	19,900	18,900	18,100	18,025
Hampshire	37,529	38,399	38,323	34,772	26,208
Hertfordshire	4,011	7,289	11,900	12,693	12,030
Humberside	6,545	5,619	5,717	10,009	11,885
Kent	24,553	32,019	31,187	31,684	28,629
Lancashire	7,981	10,204	12,990	16,337	19,158
Leicestershire	12,007	15,399	14,419	9,980	6,644
Lincolnshire	12,076	11,310	11,431	10,581	14,722
London, City of	1,237	683	1,117	1,553	1,375
Merseyside	7,722	5,019	8,003	10,642	12,829
Metropolitan	55,993	61,535	67,461	65,025	66,919
Norfolk	4,030	4,805	10,367	7,844	6,366
North Yorkshire	8,254	8,589	9,339	10,129	10,526
Northamptonshire	3,126	3,200	5,196	4,259	4,076
Northumbria	11,123	9,776	9,301	7,992	7,392
Nottinghamshire	7,146	8,241	7,923	7,172	7,250
South Yorkshire	12,117	6,494	13,689	10,267	11,390
Staffordshire	5,073	13,666	14,322	12,723	12,369
Suffolk	11,566	10,569	8,854	9,059	10,435
Surrey	8,858	9,484	9,605	8,278	6,915
Sussex	17,150	15,210	17,983	18,742	16,805
Thames Valley	16,049	15,363	14,629	13,538	14,850
Warwickshire	5,848	5,496	4,820	4,458	4,877
West Mercia	6,289	7,991	8,833	11,267	10,438
West Midlands	10,960	6,579	6,900	6,229	5,611
West Yorkshire	14,157	16,921	15,367	18,011	18,724
Wiltshire	5,867	7,398	7,167	8,708	7,688
Dyfed-Powys	5,982	6,686	6,917	7,291	9,429
Gwent	2,794	1,632	1,957	1,702	2,374
North Wales	17,337	24,177	21,812	19,597	23,034
South Wales	16,863	16,733	16,269	17,087	19,013
Total	534,285	577,600	607,368	601,718	599,752

E-mail: Fraud

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures his Department has in place regarding the monitoring of emails making fraudulent offers to recipients; and if he will make a statement. [306809]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government do not routinely monitor the internet. Where law enforcement agencies are investigating a crime initiated on the internet such as fraud, they are able to use a number of powers, including those under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, which are proportionate and specific to the case.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many workers were permitted to enter the UK in the categories listed in paragraphs 8.4 and 8.5 of the Migration Advisory Committee's October 2009 review of the shortage occupation lists for the UK and Scotland in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [302853]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* The information is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 888-9W, on entry clearances, what the average caseworking time to process a *(a)* postal, *(b)* premium and *(c)* student batch application was in the latest period for which figures are available. [306371]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The information requested is as follows:

(a) For postal applications during October 2009 UKBA delivered concluded applications against published service standards for the different routes as follows:

Family—53 per cent. against the service standard of 65 per cent. in four weeks.

Employment—89 per cent. against the service standard of 75 per cent. in four weeks.

Study—91 per cent. against the service standard of 75 per cent. in four weeks.

Visits—61 per cent. against the service of 65 per cent. in four weeks.

(b) For premium applications during November 2009 UKBA provided 82 per cent. of applicants with same day service.

(c) Student batch applications cannot be measured and are included in the study route performance at *(a)*.

The data used are from Internal Management Information only and do not constitute national statistics.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to issue a visa to Mr. Hapinderjit Singh, ref 2616562; what the reason is for the time taken to issue the visa; and if he will make a statement. [306737]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The UK Border Agency Operation in New Delhi only received confirmation on 11 December that Mr. Singh's appeal against their decision to refuse him entry clearance had been allowed. UKBA has now written to Mr. Singh informing him of this and asking him to submit his passport so that his visa can be issued without further delay.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to ensure that any changes to Tier 4 of the points-based system do not reduce the attractiveness of the UK as a study destination to foreign students. [306345]

Mr. Woolas: The Prime Minister announced on 12 November 2009 that a review of tier 4, the student tier of the Points Based System, would be conducted by a joint team from the UK Border Agency and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The review team have been asked to assess whether the current tier 4 policy strikes the appropriate balance between facilitating access of genuine students to education in the UK and preventing abuse by economic migrants.

The review is looking at evidence gathered from the early stages of tier 4, which was launched in March this year, to look at the case for or against any policy changes. The review will consider all of the available data and evidence, including the potential effect of any changes on the attractiveness of the UK as a study destination for international students.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-EU IT contractors in the Tier 2 category *(a)* applied for permission to stay in the UK and *(b)* were granted permission to stay in the UK in each month since the inception of Tier 2 of the points-based system. [307728]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* The information requested is not centrally recorded and could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-EU IT contractors in the Tier 2 category have permission to stay in the UK. [307729]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* The information requested is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Foreign Workers: Entry Clearances

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what level of security clearance is required for IT specialists employed on temporary visas by IBM (India) who work in Somerset with access to private information about staff of Avon and Somerset Police. [306347]

Mr. Hanson: This is a matter for the chief constable of Avon and Somerset.

Identity Cards

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have voluntarily applied for an identity card *(a)* since 30 November 2009 and *(b)* to date. [306360]

Alan Johnson: Since 20 October 2009, and up to and including 10 December 2009, over 2,400 applicants have been enrolled or have made an enrolment appointment for an identity card. Approximately 1,600 of those applicants have enrolled or have made an appointment since 30 November 2009.

Identity Cards: Databases

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information will be held on the National Identity Register on identity card holders that is not held on the UK Passport Database in respect of passport holders. [306359]

Alan Johnson: The information currently held on the UK passport database is very similar to that which is held on the National Identity Register. In addition, the Register holds:

1. Fingerprint biometrics, which will be required for passport issue in due course.

2. Some different administrative information to support the efficient operation of the National Identity Service. This includes:

(a) National insurance number to aid identity verification checks for identity cards, and in time, passports.

(b) Answers to "shared secrets" chosen by applicants which will allow them to identify themselves over the telephone, facilitating quicker reporting of lost or stolen documents and change of address

(c) A unique number, the national identity registration number, which binds recorded details relating to one person together in the same record.

Identity Cards: Expenditure

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to his Department of providing identity cards has been to date; and what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the identity card trial scheme in Greater Manchester. [305388]

Meg Hillier: The National Identity Service (NIS) Cost Report presented to Parliament in October 2009 sets out the latest estimated 10-year future costs of the NIS, which includes the initial costs of roll-out which started in Greater Manchester on 30 November.

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) Annual Report and Accounts for 2009-10 will include audited disclosure of operational identity card income and expenditure.

The National Identity Service combines a number of programmes to deliver modern passports which include facial images and fingerprints, as well as identity cards and other improvements. This is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives because much of the technology and operational processes involved are shared. Total spend on NIS future development projects since April 2006 to September 2009 is £216 million.

Illegal Immigrants: Bail

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants on bail have broken the conditions of their bail in the last five years. [305793]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The UK Border Agency does not hold data centrally on breaches of immigration bail.

Obtaining the information requested would entail a search of case records relating to all individuals who have been placed on immigration bail in the last five years, thereby incurring disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the average time taken by the UK Border Agency to process an application for leave to remain in the UK. [305715]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The following table shows performance for LTR casework by application type for the most recent reporting month (October 2009).

Performance by workstream	*Service standard*	*Percentage of applications dealt with within service standard for month end October 2009*
Family	65 per cent. of cases within 20 working days	53
Study	75 per cent. of cases within 20 working days	91
Visiting the UK	75 per cent. of cases within 20 working days	61
Work	75 per cent. of cases within 20 working days	89

Note:
These data are not provided under National Statistics protocols. They have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements have been made to residential and operational staffing of immigration removal centres over Christmas 2009 and the New Year period. [304953]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* Immigration removal centres operate throughout the year and are open during Christmas 2009 and new year period. Each centre is making arrangements to celebrate Christmas. Staffing will be maintained at the standard level for each centre to provide continuity of service and to ensure a safe environment for all persons detained.

Immigration: Nepal

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent changes there have been to Immigration Rules in respect of Nepal. [306767]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* There have been no recent changes to the Immigration Rules in respect of Nepal. Chapter 15 section 2A of the Immigration Directorate Instructions was updated in June to reflect the Home Secretary's announcement that any Gurkha with more than four years service who had been discharged from the Brigade of Gurkhas before 1 July 1997 would be eligible to apply for settlement in the UK.

Independent Safeguarding Authority

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a privacy impact assessment was produced in relation to the *(a)* creation and *(b)* operation of the schemes overseen by the Independent Safeguarding Authority. [305154]

Meg Hillier: The Independent Safeguarding Authority was formally vested on 2 January 2008 and commenced operations in March 2008. This pre-dated the mandatory requirement to produce a privacy impact assessment.

The Vetting and Barring Scheme programme, which includes establishment of the Independent Safeguarding Authority, is being delivered in phases. The programme is currently in its fourth phase and a Privacy Impact Assessment is scheduled to be completed during the remaining phases of the programme.

National Public Order Intelligence Unit: Finance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 339, on the National Public Order Intelligence Unit, what the budget of the unit was in each financial year since 2003. [302960]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National Public Order Intelligence Unit has provided the following information on its annual budget for each financial year since 2003.

	£ million
2003-04	2.5
2004-05	2.5
2005-06	2.5
2006-07	2.537
2007-08	4.279
2008-09	5.946
2009-10	5.702

Offenders: Radicalism

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many units within his Department are developing interventions and programmes for extremist offenders following their release from a custodial sentence. [308121]

Mr. Hanson: One unit, the Prevent Interventions Unit, is working with a number of community based organisations to develop a range of interventions to support individuals, and this target group will include some offenders convicted of terrorist related offences. The unit also work with statutory partners, such as the National Offender Management Service, to develop interventions that support offenders convicted of a terrorist offence as well as offenders who are vulnerable to recruitment or have already been recruited by violent extremists.

Offensive Weapons: Convictions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people charged with carrying an offensive weapon in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency in 2008-09; and what sentences those convicted of such offences received. [306268]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

The number of offenders that were charged with carrying an offensive weapon is not available. Data relating to possession of an offensive weapon are based on offences resulting in a caution or sentence.

The table shows the number of offences involving the possession of an offensive weapon resulting in a caution or sentence between Ql 2008 (January to March) to Q3 2009 (July to September) in England and Wales.

This table has been taken from the Ministry of Justice's publication "Knife Crime Sentencing: Quarterly Brief" published on 10 December 2009 and available from

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/knife-crime-sentencing.htm

Further regional breakdowns by police force area are not given as the numbers are too small for reliable interpretation.

Offences[1] involving possession of an offensive weapon resulting in a caution or a sentence

Number of offences and percentage

Disposal category	*Q1 2008*	*Q2 2008*	*Q3 2008*	*Q4 2008*	*Q1 2009*	*Q2 2009*	*Q3 2009*
Number of offences							
Possession of an offensive weapon	3,751	3,639	3,665	3,475	3,217	3,183	3,101
Caution[2]	1,586	1,602	1,393	1,218	1,138	1,105	1,092
Absolute/Conditional discharge	203	169	102	83	91	93	92
Fine	166	112	113	134	122	114	106
Community sentence	964	881	977	976	886	911	830
Suspended sentence	248	266	320	330	309	342	331
Immediate custody	497	518	681	623	606	551	498
Other disposal	87	91	79	111	65	67	152
Percentage of total offences							
Caution[2]	42	44	38	35	35	35	35
Community sentence	26	24	27	28	28	29	27
Suspended sentence	7	7	9	9	10	11	11
Immediate custody	13	14	19	18	19	17	16

[1] As recorded by the police on the police national computer.

[2] Cautions include juveniles receiving reprimands and final warnings.

Notes:

1. These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.
2. PNC data has been used here rather than court data, which is the usual source of published sentencing statistics, as PNC data provides more up to date figures ahead of the finalised annual court data.

Passports

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of replacing a *(a)* passport damaged by the passport holder and *(b)* passport containing a defective component. [305201]

Meg Hillier: The information is as follows:

(a) There is no cost to the public purse of replacing a passport damaged by the passport holder as the process requires a new application to be processed and the applicant must pay the full passport fee.

(b) The cost to the public purse of replacing defective passports is commercial in confidence information.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to assist those to whom passports with a faulty chip have been issued; and if he will make a statement. [305202]

Meg Hillier: In some instances, a machine reader may not recognise the passport when it is read. This could be due to a number of reasons such as a faulty passport reader, a manufacturing fault in the passport chip or because damage has been caused by the holder to the biometric chip. If a customer encounters difficulties at UK immigration, the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) can have the passport checked by the manufacturer. However, if a customer has travel requirements while the passport is being checked, IPS will issue a replacement passport, free of charge, upon production of proof of travel. This is a change to previous IPS policy, which required customers to pay for a replacement passport if they needed to travel while the passport was being tested.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports issued in each of the last three years have been found to contain faulty chips. [305203]

Meg Hillier: The recording of statistical data relating to faulty chips in passports began in January 2007 and, as at 31 October 2009, a total of 1,342 passports were returned to the supplier with suspected faulty chips, but only 1,107 of those were confirmed as faulty.

The majority of defective chips are identified at the quality assurance stage of the passport issuing process, prior to the passports being dispatched to customers.

Police

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police constables there were in each year since 1997 and *(b)* police community support officers there were in each year since 1992 in (i) England and (ii) Avon and Somerset constituency. [307367]

Mr. Hanson: The available data can be seen in the following tables.

The first police community support officers started work in September 2002, following legislation which was introduced as part of the Police Reform Act 2002. Therefore, data on police community support officers are not available prior to 31 March 2003.

Police officer strength (FTE)[1] for England and Avon and Somerset as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2009

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003[3]	2004[3]	2005[3]	2006[3]	2007[3]	2008[3]	2009[3]
England	118,459	118,138	117,195	115,324	116,440	120,073	124,158	129,691	131,950	132,105	132,474	132,313	136,481
Avon and Somerset	2,989	2,976	2,999	2,934	2,994	3,096	3,149	3,401	3,384	3,389	3,375	3,339	3,303

[1] Full-time equivalent. All officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures).

[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[3] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). the police numbers task force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

Police community support officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] for England and Avon and Somerset as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2008[3]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
England	1,146	3,309	5,947	6,499	12,856	15,108	15,802
Avon and Somerset	0	45	139	130	302	377	381

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Full-time equivalent include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data is not available prior to 2002-03.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much police forces have paid to release private vehicles to their owners from local authority compounds in each of the last five years. [308013]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Police: Ethnic Groups

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers of each ethnicity there were in Leeds, North-West constituency in each year since 2005; and what percentage of the total number of police officers was in each ethnic group in each such year. [307763]

Mr. Hanson: Data on ethnicity of police officers are only collected centrally at police force area level.

Police: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of police officers earn more than £18,000 a year. [306335]

Mr. Hanson: All full-time police officers earn above £18,000 per annum. As from 1 September 2009, the starting salary for a full-time police officer is £22,680.

Radicalism

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what cross-departmental committees with the purpose of tackling extremism there are; which Departments are represented on each such committee; and what the *(a)* membership and *(b)* terms of reference are of each. [301468]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development (NSID) exists to consider issues relating to national security, and the Governments' international, European and international development policies. The NSID Sub-Committee on Tackling Extremism (NSID(E)) considers issues relating to tackling extremism. Details of these committees' membership and terms of reference are as follows.

In support of NSID there are, at official level, a range of specific programme boards, projects boards and working groups across government which consider extremism.

Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development (NSID)

Composition

Prime Minister (Chair)

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (alternate Chair)

Secretary of State for the Home Department (alternate Chair)

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor

Secretary of State for Health

Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Secretary of State for International Development

Secretary of State for Defence

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Secretary of State for Transport

Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change

Minister for the Cabinet Office; and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

Attorney-General

Minister for Security and Counter-Terrorism

Other Ministers, the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, the Heads of the Intelligence Agencies, the Commissioner of the

Metropolitan Police, and the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers may be invited to attend as required.

Terms of Reference

> "To consider issues relating to national security, and the Government's international, European and international development policies".

Sub-Committee on Tackling Extremism (NSID(E))

Composition

Prime Minister (Chair)
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Secretary of State for International Development
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Secretary of State for Wales
Minister for the Cabinet Office; and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Attorney-General
Minister for Security and Counter-Terrorism

Other Ministers, the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers, and other officials, may also be invited to attend as necessary.

Terms of Reference

> "To consider issues relating to tackling extremism; and report as necessary to the Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development and the Committee on Domestic Affairs"

Repatriation

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average payment to a foreign national under the Facilitated Returns Scheme has been since its inception. [303327]

Mr. Woolas: The Facilitated Returns Scheme (FRS), launched in October 2006, accounted for around a quarter of the total removals of foreign national offenders in 2007 and around a third of removals in 2008. Of those removed under FRS in 2008, less than three-quarters took up the reintegration package on return.

The average amount received per foreign national offender who claimed the reintegration assistance in 2008 was less than £2,500.

Security: Greater London

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the official threat level in respect of the new year celebrations in London. [307742]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 16 December 2009]:* The threat level is kept under constant review. The current threat level to the United Kingdom from international terrorism is assessed by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre to be SUBSTANTIAL, meaning an attack is a strong possibility. SUBSTANTIAL indicates a continuing high level of threat and that an attack might well occur without further warning.

The overall threat level to the UK is the only threat level which is made public. There are a number of other sector, area and event specific threat levels which are not made public but which are communicated to the police and security practitioners.

As always, the police will take all measures they deem necessary and appropriate to protect the public during the new year celebrations in London.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Bullying

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of bullying of staff within the Serious and Organised Crime Agency have been brought in each year since 2006. [307762]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is as follows:

Calendar year	*Number of bullying cases*
2006	6
2007	4
2008	16
2009	8

UK Border Agency

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to his letter to the hon. Member for Thurrock of 1 June 2009 in respect of case reference W1035264—CTS M11279/9, handled by the UK Border Agency's Case Resolution Team, for what reason the undertaking to conclude the case within three months has not been complied with; and if he will make a statement. [305806]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The Home Secretary replied to my hon. Friend on 8 December 2009.

TREASURY

Banks: Loans

Alan Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of banks which have secured the agreement of customers to long-term fixed-rate mortgages for periods during which such banks had forecast that interest rates would be reduced in each of the last three years; and what his policy is on that practice. [306889]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government do not hold this information.

Benefits: Children

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many child tax credit applications were contested with two or more individuals asserting claims for the same child in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; [308108]

(2) in how many cases two or more individuals asserted child benefit claims for the same child in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09. [308109]

Mr. Timms: Reliable information is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs' system does not accurately capture the number of competing claims.

Boilers: Government Assistance

Mr. Moore: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 365W, on the pre-Budget report, when the boiler scrappage scheme will become operational; what the *(a)* eligibility criteria and *(b)* application process will be for the scheme; whether the scheme will be open to applications from Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [307914]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Greener Boiler Incentive scheme is being implemented by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, which is working to launch the scheme at the earliest opportunity in 2010.

The incentive will be available to all households in England replacing a working G rated boiler with a high efficiency boiler or renewable heat technology, and application details will be published in due course.

The scheme will be available in England only, as the encouragement of energy efficiency other than by prohibition or regulation is a devolved matter in Scotland and Wales, and in Northern Ireland responsibility for energy policy, including energy efficiency, is also a devolved matter.

Child Benefit

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims for child benefit have been made in each of the last three years. [302554]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 9 December 2009]*: The information requested is provided in the following table.

	Child benefit claims (Thousand)[1]
2006-07	928
2007-08	972
2008-09	978

[1] New claims, claims for an additional child, or a claim for transfer of entitlement.

These figures do not include child benefit claims already in payment.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many requests to expedite individuals' child benefit claims were made *(a)* by (i) local authorities, (ii) voluntary agencies, (iii) Jobcentre Plus office, (iv) hospitals, (v) hon. Members, (vi) local councillors and (vii) claimants and *(b)* in total in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09; [308107]

(2) how many requests have been made to expedite individuals' child benefit claims *(a)* by (i) local authorities, (ii) voluntary agencies, (iii) Jobcentre Plus offices, (iv) hospitals, (v) hon. Members, (vi) local councillors, (vii) claimants and *(b)* in total in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09. [308196]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as the Child Benefit Office does not collect the number of requests to expedite individuals' child benefit claims.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the longest time was for payment of a child benefit claim to be started for *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* non-UK EEA nationals, *(c)* A8 EEA nationals, *(d)* A2 EEA nationals and *(e)* non-European nationals in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [308112]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available broken down by the categories requested. However, for information on the time taken to pay new child benefit claims in 2006-07; 2007-08 and 2008-09 I refer my right hon. Friend to the answers given to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland (Dr. Kumar) on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 894W; the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 356W and to the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason), on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1046-47W.

I also refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for West Ham (Lyn Brown) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 328W and the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason), on 27 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1046-47W.

HM Revenue and Customs aims to pay 66 per cent. of new child benefit claims in nine working days in 2009-10 and all claims in an average of 20 calendar days.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the largest sum of child benefit paid retrospectively to an individual or couple was in *(a)* 2009, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* the last five years. [308114]

Mr. Timms: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost, as HM Revenue and Customs does not systematically compile information about the size of individual child benefit payments made each year.

Child Trust Fund

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much his Department has spent on advertising and promoting the Child Trust Fund in each year since its establishment; [307300]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Minister of Finance on the operation of the Child Trust Fund in Northern Ireland; [307301]

(3) how many Child Trust Fund vouchers have been issued to people in North Belfast in each year since their introduction; [307304]

(4) how many Child Trust Fund accounts have been opened by people in each constituency in Northern Ireland; [307305]

(5) how much money has been paid into Child Trust Fund accounts in Northern Ireland. [307306]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Various statistical information regarding the Child Trust Fund is published on HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

The total number of accounts opened and vouchers issued in each constituency can be found within the constituency statistics. Information about each year's media expenditure can be found in the relevant statistical reports. The value of contributions to accounts by country can be found in the detailed distributional analysis.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Christmas

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305633]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: One tree is supplied each year by the PFI provider for the offices at 1 Horse Guards Road at no direct cost to the department. In each of the past three years, the Department's office in Norwich has purchased one tree, sourced from a local forest, at a cost of approximately £150 each year. The tree is subsequently recycled.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [307654]

Mr. Timms: *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* The Treasury does not have a budget for Christmas trees in 2009-10 as one is supplied by the building's PFI provider.

Climate Change Levy: Agriculture

Mr. Paice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the contribution to Climate Change Levy receipts to the Carbon Trust from the *(a)* horticulture, *(b)* pig and *(c)* poultry industry since 2001. [307500]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In general, the Government do not hypothecate revenue. Income from taxes and other revenues are pooled in the consolidated fund so that spending can be prioritised across the range of Government activities in the most efficient way.

When the Climate Change Levy package was introduced in 2001 some revenue was notionally hypothecated to help establish the Carbon Trust—an independent body now sponsored by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). It is primarily grant-funded by DECC and the Devolved Administrations, and in 2008-09 also received grant funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Corporation Tax: Patents

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what revenue accrued to the Exchequer from corporation tax applied to patents in each year since 1997. [307408]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as companies are not required to distinguish income from patents when assessing their liability to corporation tax.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department spent on art works in the last 12 months. [306438]

Mr. Timms: Works of art form part of antiques spending, which is shown in note 11 to the 2008-09 annual report and accounts (HC 611), available from

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/annual_report09.htm

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307965]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on the Treasury's performance against the Government's commitment to pay invoices within 10 days since October 2008 is set out in the following table.

Month	*Invoices paid within 10 working days*	*Percentage of invoices paid within 10 working days*
2008		
November	582	90.09
December	570	93.75
2009		
January	548	91.18
February	639	96.82
March	750	96.53
April	578	95.54
May	494	93.92
June	620	98.73
July	597	97.07
August	506	98.64
September	534	98.52
October	498	96.89
November	602	99.18

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Public Works Loan Board's buildings attended by civil servants in the Public Works Loan Board there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each; [307450]

(2) how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Debt Management Office's buildings attended by civil servants in that Office there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307463]

Ian Pearson: No central records are held on Debt Management Office (including the Public Works Loan Board which is an operational unit of the DMO) away days and attendance at conferences. This information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307523]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 850W.

Departmental Coordination: Scotland

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* written correspondence, *(b)* electronic correspondence, *(c)* meetings and *(d)* other communications he has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on (i) the Scottish economy and (ii) road fuel duty taxation in 2008-09. [303897]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Scotland communicated on a number of matters in 2008-09.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what pay band his Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307557]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the Treasury Group is employed on a permanent contract at senior civil service pay band 1. The budgets allocated to work related to these CIO responsibilities in 2008-09 total £20 million (rounded to the nearest £5 million).

Departmental Legal Costs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on external legal advice in respect of *(a)* the Assets Protection Scheme, *(b)* bank bail outs, *(c)* the merger of HBOS and Lloyds TSB and *(d)* the Northern Rock rescue; and if he will make a statement. [307587]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the NAO report 'Maintaining financial stability across the United Kingdom's banking system', published in December (page 24, figure 7) which is available at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0910/uk banking system.aspx

Agreements between the Treasury and certain institutions mean that the majority of these fees are recoverable and this sum does not therefore represent a net cost to the Treasury.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what process is used to appoint or draw up contracts with external lawyers to advise his Department; and if he will make a statement. [307588]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department uses a call-off process from any appropriate Collaborative Framework Agreement, or competitive tendering, to procure external legal services from solicitors' firms. For external counsel, the Department uses the Panel and nomination procedures approved by the Attorney-General, details of which are set out on the website of the Attorney-General's Office.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307793]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No offences were abolished during the relevant period.

The following offences were created during the relevant period by secondary legislation:

1. The Community Emissions Trading Scheme (Allocation of Allowances for Payment) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1939), which came into force on 12 August 2008, inserted regulation 9B into the Community Emissions Trading Scheme (Allocation of Allowances for Payment) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/1825) which created an offence of breach of regulation 9A (wrongful disclosure).

2. The Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008 (SI 2008/2668), which came into force on 10 October 2008, created the following offences:

(i) Article 5: Breach of a freezing prohibition in article 4.

(ii) Article 7: Knowingly or recklessly providing false information in relation to licenses.

(iii) Article 11: Liability of officers of bodies corporate.

3. The Burma/Myanmar (Financial Restrictions) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/1494), which came into force on 18 June 2009, created the following offences:

(i) Regulation 13: Prohibition against financing designated enterprises.

(ii) Regulation 14: Prohibition against creating a joint venture.

4. The Terrorism (United Nations Measures) Order 2009 (SI 2009/1747), which came into force on 10 August 2009, created the following offences, in relation to financial sanctions imposed on persons for reasons in relation to terrorism:

(i) Article 10: Freezing funds and economic resources of a restricted person.

(ii) Article 11: Making funds or financial services available to a restricted person.

(iii) Article 12: Making funds or financial services available for the benefit of a restricted person.

(iv) Article 13: Making economic resources available to a restricted person.

(v) Article 14: Making economic resources available for the benefit of a restricted person

(vi) Article 16: Circumventing prohibitions etc.

5. To ensure the effective transposition of the Payment Services Directive (2007/64/EC) (in force on 1 November 2009) by the Payment Services Regulations ("PSR") (SI 2009/209), the following offences in Part 9 of the PSR were created:

(i) Regulation 110: Prohibition on provision of payment services by persons other than payment service providers.

(ii) Regulation 111: False claims to be a payment service provider or exempt.

(iii) Regulation 113: Contravention of regulation 49(2) (disclosure of charges and rate for currency conversion) or regulation 50(2) (disclosure of charge for use of payment instrument).

(iv) Regulation 114: Misleading the FSA or the OFT.

(v) Regulation 116: Liability of officers of bodies corporate etc.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of his Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306711]

Mr. Timms: HM Treasury retain a rolling record of staff in the redeployment pool, rather than a month-by-month record. On 14 December there were 19 staff in the HM Treasury redeployment pool.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of Parliamentary Questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307537]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason) on 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 405W.

Employee Benefit Trusts

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department considers the provision of an interest free loan to be a qualifying benefit for the purpose of tax relief on contributions to an employee benefit trust. [305572]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 9 December 2009]:* Provision of an interest free loan is not a qualifying benefit for the purpose of tax relief on contributions to an employee benefit trust.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employee benefit trusts registered with HM Revenue and Customs have only one beneficiary. [305761]

Mr. Timms: There is no obligation to notify HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) of the number of beneficiaries per Employee Benefit Trust (EBT). In HMRC's experience EBTs with only one beneficiary are very uncommon.

Equitable Life Ex-gratia Payment Scheme Review

Chloe Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will require Sir John Chadwick to report by a specified date his advice on an ex-gratia payment scheme to Equitable Life policy holders. [306048]

Mr. Byrne: Sir John is making good progress with his work and the Government expect him to submit his final report in spring 2010.

Once the Government have had the opportunity to consider Sir John's advice, details of a payment scheme that is fair to both taxpayers and policyholders will be announced.

Government Actuary's Department: Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside the Government Actuary's Department's buildings attended by civil servants in the Government Actuary's Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307458]

Ian Pearson: The information is as follows:

(a) The Government Actuary and his senior management team currently hold two away days each year to review the Department's strategy and to formulate a yearly business plan. Prior to May 2008 one away day took place each year. The cost each financial year since 2005-06 is as follows:

	£
2005-06	625
2006-07	669
2007-08	512
2008-09	1,345
2009-10 (to date)	1,689

(b) GAD's staff, as part of their ongoing professional development, attend a number of conferences and seminars. The number of conferences attended and associated costs in each financial year since 2005-06 are as follows:

	Number of conferences	*Cost (£000)*
2005-06	71	31
2006-07	76	36
2007-08	58	27
2008-09	75	34
2009-10 (to date)	56	38

Government Securities

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many gilts have been issued by the Government through *(a)* pre-announced auctions, *(b)* syndication and *(c)* mini-tenders in each of the last five years. [307333]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is available on the DMO's website at:

http://www.dmo.gov.uk/

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1123W, on housing: valuation, when the code of practice. Valuations for Right to Buy, Right to Acquire and Equity Sharing of Social Housing was (i) first produced and (ii) last updated; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the methodology used by the Valuation Office Agency when calculating the financial value of the potential for further development. [305817]

Ian Pearson: The code of practice, 'Valuations for Right to Buy, Right to Acquire and Equity Sharing of Social Housing' was published by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in October 2006 and was updated in May 2009.

The method of valuation ('methodology') used by the Valuation Office Agency in 'hope value' cases, where the valuer reflects the potential for further development in the market value, will vary according to the individual circumstances and attributes of the property being valued. There is no prescribed methodology. The valuation approach adopted is a matter of professional judgement for the valuer using his/her experience and skills (having regard to relevant case law), knowledge of potential purchasers and how the latter would approach the valuation of the subject property.

Inheritance Tax

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many estates paid inheritance tax in each of the last 10 years; [307334]

(2) how much revenue has accrued to the Treasury from inheritance tax in each of the last 10 years; [307335]

(3) how many estates he estimates will pay inheritance tax *(a)* in 2010-11 and *(b)* in the subsequent 20 years. [307336]

Mr. Timms: The numbers of estates which paid inheritance tax can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-4.pdf

The amounts of inheritance tax received each year can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-2.pdf

for years since 2001-02. Annual receipts for older years can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/1_2_v2_dec05.pdf

Receipts and numbers of estates paying inheritance tax for the years 1999-2000 to 2008-09 are summarised in the following table:

Tax year	*Number of estates paying inheritance tax (nearest 1,000)*	*Inheritance tax receipts (£ million)*
1999-2000	20,000	2,047
2000-01	22,000	2,221
2001-02	23,000	2,355
2002-03	27,000	2,354
2003-04	30,000	2,504
2004-05	32,000	2,922
2005-06	33,000	3,259
2006-07	34,000	3,545
2007-08	27,000	3,824
2008-09	16,000	2,838

The figure of 16,000 taxpaying estates in 2008-09 represents 3 per cent. of all estates left on death in that year.

The current forecast for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is for about 15,000 estates paying tax each year. Forecast numbers of taxpayers are not available for later years as they are subject to a great deal of uncertainty because of possible changes to forecasts of asset prices.

Interest Rates

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to the Pre-Budget Report, Cm 7747, what assessment he has made of the effect on long-term interest rates of the Government's borrowing requirement; and if he will make a statement; [307171]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on UK interest rates of his forecasts for financing and debt management set out in paragraph 7.61 of the Pre-Budget Report, Cm 7747; and if he will make a statement; [307172]

(3) pursuant to Table B3 of the Pre-Budget Report, Cm 7747, what assessment he has made of the effect on UK interest rates of the level of net debt; and if he will make a statement; [307173]

(4) what assessment he has made of future long-term trends in UK interest rates; and if he will make a statement. [307174]

Ian Pearson *[holding answers 14 December 2009]:* UK public debt levels are forecast to remain in line with other major economies, and debt interest costs in 2010-11 as a share of GDP and public expenditure are forecast to remain below the levels in 1997. The Government have set out a credible plan for delivering a sustainable consolidation in the public finances over the medium-term, including the requirement set out in the Fiscal Responsibility Bill that public sector net borrowing is reduced to 5.5 per cent. of GDP or less by 2013-14. The average 10-year yield on government bonds for the current decade (to 9 December 2009) is significantly below the average in any of the previous three decades.

The debt interest forecast uses interest rates based on latest market expectations. The short-term interest rates used for the 2009 pre-Budget report forecast are set out in box B1 in the pre-Budget report 2009 document.

The relationship between gilt yields and gilt supply is not straightforward: it is difficult to separate out the effects of the level of supply from other influences on yields.

Mortgages

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on fiscal incentives for people with mortgages on domestic properties who are *(a)* up to date with their payments and *(b)* in arrears with their payments to work rather than claim benefits; and what account this policy takes of the practice among mortgage lenders of adjusting their fees to reflect whether or not an applicant is receiving an income from employment. [307038]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Contributions can be made towards the mortgage interest costs of homeowners through income support (IS), income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA), income-related employment and support allowance (ESA), and pension credit (PC). This is intended to provide a reasonable contribution towards customers' mortgage interest liabilities in order to protect against repossession. Where the amount paid is less than that charged by the lender, the onus is on the customer to keep the account in order by making any additional payments that are necessary.

For working age customers, a waiting period is served before assistance can be provided. This is because Government believe that those of working age taking on major financial commitments should ensure they are able to maintain these in the short term in the event of a change in circumstances. Last year we announced a temporary reduction in the waiting period from 39 weeks to 13 weeks, to provide additional support during the downturn. At the same time, we introduced a two-year time limit to Support for Mortgage Interest payments for customers claiming jobseeker's allowance. There is also a four week run-on for customers who have been in receipt of IS, ESA or JSA for at least 26 weeks to provide additional security when taking up a new job or entering work.

We are not aware of any practice among mortgage lenders of adjusting their fees to reflect customers' employment status.

National Debt

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on steps to reduce the level of Government debt included in the 2009 pre-Budget report, Cm 7747; and if he will make a statement. [307342]

Mr. Byrne: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations.

The 2009 pre-Budget report set out the Government's plan to halve the deficit over four years, which is consistent with debt falling as a per cent. of GDP in 2015-16. The Government's Fiscal Responsibility Bill will enshrine these plans in legislation.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, from which components of the National Programme for IT he expects the proposed efficiency savings to be taken. [307702]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

Since its inception, the Departm[illegible]as consulted and communicated with its national health service stakeholders, including clinicians, senior NHS managers and information management and technology staff, and the medical professional representative and health regulatory bodies, on a frequent and regular basis about all aspects of the NHS information technology programme. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State has also often discussed issues relating to the programme in his regular meetings with the Chancellor.

As part of the current Government-wide drive to find efficiency savings and better value for money on major projects, officials are holding ongoing discussions with the Treasury, and with suppliers, about how these might be generated in relation to the national programme.

Public Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his Department's publication Long-term public finance report: an analysis of fiscal sustainability, what the figures are which are represented by each bar in *(a)* the tables in box 5.B, page 39, *(b)* chart 6.B, page 45, *(c)* chart 6.C, page 46, *(d)* chart 6.D, page 47, *(e)* chart 6.E, page 48, *(f)* chart 6.F, page 50, *(g)* chart 6.H, page 52 and *(h)* chart 6.I, page 53. [307666]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested data from the 2009 Long-term public finance report are set out in the tables.

As noted in the 2009 Long-term public finance report, long-term fiscal projections, unlike forecasts, are not based on a detailed analysis of all relevant factors. They are an illustration of how spending and revenue would evolve under a set of given assumptions and should therefore be caveated as involving a high degree of uncertainty.

First chart from Box 5.B

GDP	*2009*	*2019*	*2029*	*2039*	*2049*	*2059*
ONS Principal	100	128	161	203	259	321
High longevity	100	128	161	204	260	323
Low fertility	100	128	160	199	248	300
Low life expectancy	100	128	161	203	258	319
Low migration	100	127	158	196	247	303
Low population	100	127	157	191	235	280
1.75 per cent. productivity	100	125	153	189	235	284
2.25 per cent. productivity	100	131	169	219	286	363

Second chart from Box 5.B

GDP per capita	*2009*	*2019*	*2029*	*2039*	*2049*	*2059*
ONS Principal	100	119	142	171	209	251
High longevity	100	119	141	169	205	244
Low fertility	100	121	145	173	212	252
Low life expectancy	100	120	142	173	213	258
Low migration	100	120	142	170	208	250
Low population	100	121	145	175.	215	260
1.75 per cent. productivity	100	117	135	159	189	222
2.25 per cent. productivity	100	123	149	184	231	283

Data from chart 6.B

Percentage

Health	*2009-10*	*2019-20*	*2029-30*	*2039-40*	*2049-50*	*2059-60*
High longevity	8.0	8.6	9.4	10.1	10.5	11.0
Low fertility	8.0	8.4	9.2	10.0	10.4	11.0
Low life expectancy	8.0	8.5	9.3	9.9	10.1	10.4
Low population	8.0	8.4	9.3	10.1	10.5	11.1
ONS Principal	8.0	8.5	9.3	10.0	10.3	10.7
2.25 Productivity	8.0	8.6	9.3	9.8	10.0	10.3
1.75 Productivity	8.0	8.5	9.4	10.2	10.7	11.2
Earnings and CPI growth	8.0	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.1	8.0
Falling drug prices	8.0	8.2	8.8	9.3	9.5	9.8
Healthy ageing	8.0	8.5	8.9	9.3	9.4	9.7

Data from chart 6.C

Percentage

Long-term care	*2009-10*	*2019-20*	*2029-30*	*2039-40*	*2049-50*	*2059-60*
High longevity	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.1	2.4	2.7
Low fertility	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.4
Low life expectancy	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.9
Low migration	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.3
Low population	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0
ONS Principal	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.2
2.25 Productivity	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.3
1.75 Productivity	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.2
Constant health	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9

Data from chart 6.D

Percentage

Education	*2009-10*	*2019-20*	*2029-30*	*2039-40*	*2049-50*	*2059-60*
High longevity	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.7
Low fertility	6.0	5.7	5.4	5.3	5.1	5.1
Low life expectancy	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.8
Low migration	6.0	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.8
Low population	6.0	5.7	5.4	5.3	5.1	5.1
ONS Principal	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.8
2.25 Productivity	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.8
1.75 Productivity	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.6	5.7

Data from chart 6.E

Percentage

Public service pensions	*2009-10*	*2019-20*	*2029-30*	*2039-40*	*2049-50*	*2059-60*
High longevity	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.8
Low life expectancy	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7
ONS Principal	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7
2.25 Productivity	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.6
1.75 Productivity	1.8	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8

Data from chart 6.F

Percentage

Pensions	*2009-10*	*2019-20*	*2029-30*	*2039-40*	*2049-50*	*2059-60*
High longevity	5.5	5.3	5.9	6.5	6.5	7.4
Low fertility	5.5	5.3	6.0	6.7	6.8	8.0
Low life expectancy	5.5	5.3	5.9	6.5	6.6	7.5
Low migration	5.5	5.3	6.1	6.8	6.8	7.9
Low population	5.5	5.3	6.1	6.9	7.2	8.5
ONS Principal	5.5	5.3	5.9	6.5	6.5	7.4
2.25 Productivity	5.5	5.2	5.7	6.1	6.0	6.7
1.75 Productivity	5.5	5.3	6.2	6.9	7.1	8.3

Data from chart 6.H

Percentage

Taxes on income and wealth	*2009-10*	*2019-20*	*2029-30*	*2039-40*	*2049-50*	*2059-60*
High longevity	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.7	11.5	11.7
Low life expectancy	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.4	11.5
Low migration	11.6	11.6	11.5	11.6	11.4	11.5
Low population	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.7	11.5	11.5
ONS Principal	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.5	11.6
2.25 Productivity	11.6	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.6	11.7
1.75 Productivity	11.6	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.3	11.4
Increased part-time (50 years)	11.6	11.5	11.4	11.4	11.1	11.1
Low fertility	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.8	11.6	11.7

Data from chart 6.I

Percentage

Taxes on consumption and production	*2009-10*	*2019-20*	*2029-30*	*2039-40*	*2049-50*	*2059-60*
High longevity	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.4
Low life expectancy	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.1	11.1
Low migration	11.1	11.1	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.3
Low population	11.1	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.3
ONS Principal	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.3	11.2	11.3
2.25 Productivity	11.1	11.3	11.4	11.5	11.3	11.4
1.75 Productivity	11.1	11.0	11.1	11.2	11.0	11.2
Reduced tobaccos and alcohol	11.1	11.1	11.2	11.1	11.0	11.0
Increased tobacco and alcohol	11.1	11.2	11.4	11.5	11.5	11.6
Low fertility	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.4

Public Sector: Pay

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many higher paid public sector posts will require his Department's approval for payment of a salary above a defined level. [307125]

Mr. Byrne: All public sector posts requiring ministerial approval of the appointment where there is a proposal to pay a salary of £150,000 or more will require my approval. In addition, any proposals to make a non-consolidated performance related payment of £50,000 or more to such posts will also require my approval. Detailed guidance on the process for applying for approval will be issued shortly.

For all other public sector appointments, where ministerial approval is not required, the relevant Secretary of State will expect all public organisations within their sectors to publicly justify any appointments on salaries of £150,000 or more as well as the payment of £50,000 or more in non-consolidated performance pay.

In terms of the number of posts requiring Treasury approval, this will depend on demand for senior public sector staff going forward, and the relevant labour market conditions at the time.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the likely reduction in the number of higher paid public sector posts in the next three years. [307158]

Mr. Byrne: The Government are committed to re-shaping the civil service and "Putting the Frontline First: Smarter Government" announced that Government will modernise civil service structures and reduce the cost of the senior civil service, saving £100 million annually within three years.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) buildings attended by civil servants in HMRC there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307457]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available as HM Revenue and Customs' systems do not separately identify away days and conferences.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* staff are directly employed and *(b)* consultants there are in each department of HM Revenue and Customs. [308098]

Mr. Timms: The number of staff directly employed by each business unit of HM Revenue and Customs as at 1 December 2009 is as follows:

Directorate	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*
Adjudicator's Office	58	56.94
Anti-Avoidance Group	106	100.93
Benefits and Credits	7,177	6,382.46
Business Customer Unit	209	202.22
Business International	80	77.13
Capability Improvement	4	4
Central Compliance	308	293.66
Central Policy	155	145.52
Chairman, CEO and Head of Tax	33	32.38
Charity, Assets and Residence	2,468	2285
Commercial	119	113.01

Directorate	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*
Communications and Marketing	220	210.5
Compliance and Enforcement Programme	320	313.41
Corporation Tax and VAT	379	354.25
Criminal Investigation	2,192	2,130.65
Customer Contact	12,102	11,193.82
Customer Operations	17,330	14,873.8
Debt Management and Banking	7,846	6,913.76
Departmental Transformation Programme	42	40.55
Detection	22	20.86
Estates and Support Services	1,751	1,635.75
Excise, Customs, Stamps and Money	1,729	1,578.38
Finance	386	354.24
Government Banking Services	119	115.76
Individuals	89	87.87
Information Management Services	1,352	1,292.41
Internal Audit	133	128.08
Knowledge, Analysis and Intelligence	426	410.7
Large Business Service	1,578	1,505.37
Local Compliance	14,558	13,401.36
Pacesetter Business Performance	69	67.84
People Function	1,699	1,568.87
PSN (PAYE, SA and NIC)	389	370.99
Risk and Intelligence Services	2,875	2,681.75
Security	104	99.82
Solicitor's Office	392	370.04
Specialist Investigations	1,646	1,575.5
Strategy Development	13	13
Total	80,478	73,002.58

Information on the number of individual consultants employed is not held centrally by the Department and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: Public Opinion

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many public opinion surveys HM Revenue and Customs has performed since 2006; and what the title of each such survey was. [308094]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs conducts a wide range of surveys to understand the attitudes, needs and behaviours of their customers. Since 2006 HMRC have undertaken 66 surveys, with some repeated on more than one occasion. The titles of the surveys are as follows:

Attitudes and behaviours in self-assessment taxpayers
Cross Border Shopping—Oils Survey
Charities, Assets and Residents (CAR) Customers Service Survey
Child Benefit New Form testing
Child Trust Fund (five phases)
Complaints Tracking Research (three phases)
Concept Testing for SA Carter Segments—Support Strategy
Contact Centre Customer Satisfaction Survey (four phases)
Customer experience of the simplified Main Tax Return pilot (two phases)
Customer Journeys Individuals (two phases)
Drivers of Compliance (two phases)
DWP Joint Working trial (2nd phase)
Enterprise Management Incentives (EMI) Evaluation Survey: Use of EMI and its perceived impact
Evaluation of the Changes to Capital Gains Tax Since 1998
Evaluation of the redesign of Enquiry Centres
Gift Aid Donor Research
HMRC Customer Service Survey (four phases)
HMRC Research on SA Online Registration (two phases)
Individuals Prioritisation (two phases)
Innovative Guidance
Key Factsheets for Employees and Pensioners
Learning from Mistakes—Errors Work (two phases)
March 2007 in-year customer service survey
Panel Study of Tax Credit and Child Benefit Claimants 2008-11
Pensioners quantitative survey
Pensions Tax Simplification evaluation—Wave 2
Pensions Taxation Reforms: A Baseline Survey of Individuals
Pre SA mandation research (two phases)
Reputation Index
Reputation Tracking
Research to explore the feasibility of collecting in-year estimates from tax credit claimants
SA Products Evaluation
Saving Gateway Second Pilot—Follow-Up Research
Share Incentives Plan and Save as You Earn Survey of Employers and Employees (two phases)
Survey of Savings and Investments for children: A baseline survey at the inception of the Child Trust Fund
Survey of Trustees and Settlors Behaviour and Reasons for Setting up Trusts
Tax credit claim form—Usability Testing
Tax Credits Campaign Tracking
Tax Credits Campaign Tracking Birmingham Pilot
Tax Credits Campaign Tracking Renewals
Tax Credits Renewals Guidance Notes Testing
Tax Credits Trailblazers
Tax for Business Campaign and Self Assessment Campaign
Tax For Business Campaign Tracking Wave 6
Tax Matters
Taxback Project
Taxpayer Advertising Tracking
Understanding the relationships between HMRC customers, the Voluntary and Community Sector and HMRC.

Revenue and Customs: Sudbury

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many enquiries were made to HM Revenue and Customs enquiry centre at Crown Building, Sudbury in each of the last three years. [307746]

Mr. Timms: The number of customers who have visited Sudbury Enquiry Centre since 2006-07 is shown in the following table. The number of appointments represents those customers who needed face to face advice to resolve their enquiry. The remainder had their enquiry dealt with by being directed to HMRC's telephone helplines or website.

	Total callers (All channels)	*Adviser appointments*
2006-07	6,799	1,521
2007-08	5,150	887
2008-09	4,022	306
2009-10 (end November)	2,232	166

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of staff were employed at HM Revenue and Customs enquiry centre at Crown Building, Sudbury in each of the last three years. [307747]

Mr. Timms: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed at the HMRC Enquiry Centre Sudbury is shown in the following table.

December each year	*Staff (full-time equivalent)*
2007	4
2008	3
2009	2.86

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there are plans to reduce the opening hours of the HM Revenue and Customs enquiry centre at Crown Building, Sudbury. [307748]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 855W and confirm that Sudbury Enquiry Centre is included in the first phase of the review. No decision has yet been taken on new opening patterns for this Enquiry Centre.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how many calls an interpreter was provided on *(a)* the tax credits public helpline, *(b)* the tax credits intermediaries helpline, *(c)* the child benefit public helpline and *(d)* all other HM Revenue and Customs helplines in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [308104]

Mr. Timms: The breakdown requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) do not capture the use of interpretation services by helpline. In 2007-08 HMRC used interpretation services across its helpline services in a total of 420,000 occasions; in 2008-09 this figure was 839,000.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has responded to the Social Security Advisory Committee's Occasional Paper Number 7 recommendation *(a)* call-backs should be offered by DWP and HMRC contact centre staff when a customer is calling from a mobile phone, *(b)* HMRC helpline numbers should be transferred from 0845 to 0800 numbers and *(c)* the information about the cost of calling HMRC should be improved significantly; and if he will make a statement. [308115]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) contact centres will begin an in depth review of its numbering strategy in the first half of this year, and will respond to the Social Security Advisory Committee's occasional paper no. 7 as part of this review.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps have been taken to improve the service of the tax credits public helpline to people from ethnic minorities under the race equality duty in the last 12 months; and what improvements are planned for the next 12 months; [308116]

(2) what steps have been taken to improve the service of the child benefit public helpline to people from ethnic minorities under the race equality duty in the last 12 months; and what improvements are planned for the next 12 months. [308117]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has invited feedback and comments on its Race Equality Scheme (RES) for the period 2008-11 via its website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/res-2008-11.pdf

HMRC Contact Centres recognise that some customers can face issues around language and that these issues present barriers in their dealings with the Department. In the last 12 months the Department has carried out a review of the interpretation services it offers those customers. As a result it has introduced a pilot that enables a third party, nominated by the customer, to translate on their behalf. If, when evaluated, this pilot shows the anticipated improvements to customer experience, this approach will be adopted across the entire Contact Centre network.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps have been taken to improve the service of the child benefit public helpline to disabled people under the disability equality duty in the last 12 months; and what improvements are planned for the next 12 months; [308118]

(2) what steps have been taken in the last 12 months to improve the service of the Tax Credits public helpline to disabled people under the disability equality duty; and what measures are proposed for the next 12 months. [308201]

Mr. Timms: In the last year HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have actively sought the engagement of both internal and external stakeholders to identify initiatives to improve the provision of services to customers with disabilities through the Department's Disabled Customer Contact Group (DCCG). As a result of this work HMRC Contact Centres, which administer both the Tax Credits and Child Benefits helplines, carried out a review of the Textphone service which is used to support customers who have a hearing or speech impairment. Following this review HMRC will be implementing a series of changes to improve the access to, and the reliability of, this service.

In addition, as part of its Disability Discrimination Act action plan for 2010, HMRC is looking to improve staff awareness of disability issues through enhanced training so that the Department better identifies and responds to the needs of disabled customers.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 983W, on welfare tax credits: telephone services, what the evidential basis is that some customers will pay more, others will pay less and for others there will be no change in relation to a charge from 0845 numbers to 0300. [308133]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs does not hold information on individual customers call charges as calls are charged to the customer based on the tariff arrangements they have with their service provider, the device they use for the call and the location from which they call.

However, reviews carried out of telephone service provider's tariff websites and Ofcom's own guide to telephone charges "Number Crunching" available at www.ofcom.org/files/numbering/2009/08/numbering.pdf. indicate that some customers will pay more, others will pay less and for others there will be no change in relation to a change from 0845 numbers to 0300.

Smuggling: Ivory

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much ivory has been seized in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [307634]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

During the five-year period from 2004 to 2009, the UK Border Agency made the following ivory seizures:

April to March each year	*Number of seizures*	*Number of pieces/weight*[1]
2004-05	21	248 pieces plus 2,225 grams
2005-06	22	44 pieces plus 857 grams
2006-07	19	111 pieces plus 3,310 grams
2007-08	11	64 pieces plus 9,747 grams
2008-09	8	19 pieces plus 2,150 grams

[1] Some ivory seizures are recorded in weight and others by the number of pieces seized.

We do not hold data on seizures carried out by local police forces.

Tax Avoidance: Yorkshire and the Humber

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the statement of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 368, on the pre-Budget report, how many of the 100,000 offshore accounts being investigated by HM Revenue and Customs are thought to be held by persons or institutions in *(a)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(b)* City of York. [307620]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not currently available.

The figure of 100,000 refers to the potential number of offshore account details HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will receive once all the relevant data from the banks is received. HMRC will be collating this information into a database and should be able to provide analysis based on this later this year.

Many of these account holders may already be making correct returns and paying the right amount of tax. Others may choose to take advantage of the New Disclosure Opportunity (NDO) and be in the process of disclosing unpaid liabilities voluntarily. HMRC will commence investigations once the NDO has closed on 12 March 2010.

Tax Evasion

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were convicted of tax evasion in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [308377]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is contained in the following table. This information has only been collected centrally since 2006-07 and figures for earlier years could be determined only at a disproportionate cost. While the number of cases prosecuted remained fairly even over the three years indicated, the number of individuals convicted rose in 2007-08 due to a number of long running complex prosecutions resulting in successful outcomes in that year. Many were multi-handed cases in which most or all defendants were convicted.

	Number of individuals convicted in England and Wales[1]
2006-07	258
2007-08	328
2008-09	226

[1] Tax evasion has been defined as offences relating to VAT (non-complex and complex/MTIC), tax credits (non-complex and complex/organised) and direct tax (non-complex/Grabiner and complex).

Tax Yields

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much and what percentage of total taxation revenue has accrued to the Treasury from taxation on *(a)* the financial sector and *(b)* the housing sector in each of the last 12 years. [307332]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. However, information on tax receipts by head of duty is available as follows:

Stamp duty, capital gains tax and inheritance tax data are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-2.pdf

and

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/1_2_v2_dec05.pdf

Capital gains tax and inheritance tax figures will reflect both housing and financial assets. Stamp duty will reflect shares, housing and commercial property.

Pay As You Earn tax deducted from pay in the financial sector is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-10.pdf

This covers the period 1999-2000 to 2006-07.

Corporation tax data are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/table11_1.pdf

covering the period 2000-01 to 2008-09.

Percentage figures for tax receipts by head of duty can be calculated from the overall amount of tax receipts, available in table C1 of the Public Finances Databank at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/public_finances_databank.xls

Taxation: Bingo

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was raised through bingo taxation in each year since 2005. [307589]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on revenue collected from betting and gaming duties is published by HMRC and can be found in the online betting and gaming bulletin at the following address:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbett

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received in 2009 on the level of bingo taxation. [307590]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with, and receive representations from, a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of receipts from indirect taxation was from bingo taxation in 2008-09. [307591]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on receipts from various tax regimes is published by HMRC and can be found at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com

Revenue collected from bingo duty in 2008-09 equalled 0.05 per cent. of total indirect taxes receipts.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what field research and site visits to self-catering properties were conducted by HM Revenue and Customs prior to the publication of its technical note, Withdrawing the Furnished Holiday Lettings Rules from 2010-11, published on 9 December 2009. [307293]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 16 December 2009]:* The technical note entitled "Withdrawing the Furnished Holiday Lettings Rules from 2010-11" was prepared on the basis of representations received and meetings held with interested parties together with other publicly available information. We welcome comments on the note.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many UK residents with qualifying furnished holiday lettings (FHLs) in the European Economic Area have submitted claims under the FHLs rules since the extension of the rules to such properties in April 2009; [307776]

(2) what the cost has been of claims made under the furnished holiday letting rules up to 1 December 2009 by UK residents with qualifying lettings in the European Economic Area. [307777]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) administrative systems do not record whether properties let under furnished holiday lettings rules are located in the UK or European economic area.

Estimates of the total cost of extending the furnished holiday letting rules to the European economic area until the end of 2009-10 were published in an impact assessment alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/furnished-holiday-ia-3760.pdf

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what evidence must be provided by UK residents with qualifying furnished holiday lettings (FHLs) in the European Economic Area when they submit claims under the FHLs rules since the extension of the rules to such properties in April 2009. [307778]

Mr. Timms: Under the self assessment rules, businesses are not required to submit evidence when they make a tax claim, however they are required to maintain records to support their claim. HM Revenue and Customs may ask to see these records if the claim is selected for a compliance check.

Taxation: Revenues

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the proportion of revenue accruing to the Exchequer through indirect taxation from persons in the *(a)* bottom quintile and *(b)* top quintile of earners. [306564]

Mr. Timms: Expenditure data are, conventionally, segmented by equivalised household income, rather than earner income. The proportions of indirect tax paid by the top and bottom quintile of all households ranked by equivalised disposable income can be calculated from the information provided in table 14A of "The effects of taxes and benefits on household income, 2006/07", available at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/07_08/downloads/ELMR_Jul08_Jones.pdf

Transfer Pricing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many advance pricing agreements *(a)* have been made and *(b)* were in force with multinational companies in each year since 2005; and in how many such cases (i) enforcement action was taken and (ii) penalties levied in transfer pricing disputes in each year. [307353]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is provided in the following tables.

	Advance pricing agreements	
	Made	*In force*
2006	14	33
2007	16	37
2008	15	46

	Number of cases involving large business where transfer pricing adjustments were made
2006-07	14
2007-08	16
2008-09	15

In 2008-09 49 cases involving smaller businesses were settled involving adjustments.

No penalties were charged on transfer pricing issues in the years 2006-07 and 2007-08, penalties have been charged during 2008-09 but details of the number of cases where a penalty was appropriate is not readily available.

Welfare Tax Credits

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the longest time has been between a tax credit claim being made and payment being started for *(a)* a UK national *(b)* all non-UK EEA nationals, *(c)* a A8 EEA national, *(d)* a A2 EEA national and *(e)* a non-European national in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [308106]

Mr. Timms: The specific information requested is only available at disproportionate cost.

For information about HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) targets and performance outturn in relation to tax credit in 2007-08 and earlier years, I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 534-36W. Information for 2008-09 was published at paragraph 2.6 in the HMRC departmental report published at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/dept-ann-rep09.pdf

More complex claims, including those from customers arriving from abroad, often require HMRC to make more detailed inquiries, and so HMRC may be unable to process and pay them within the usual target times. HMRC is continuously working to identify how resources can be most effectively deployed to achieve its revised aims.

Welfare Tax Credits: Appeals

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many appeals relating to tax credits were lodged by *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* non-UK EEA nationals, *(c)* A8 EEA nationals, *(d)* A2 EEA nationals and *(e)* non-European nationals in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09; [308110]

(2) how many appeals in child benefit cases were lodged by *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* non-UK EEA nationals, *(c)* A8 EEA nationals, *(d)* A2 EEA nationals and *(e)* non-European nationals in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [308119]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not collect information on appeals by nationality of the appellants.

For information about the numbers of appeals made against tax credits decisions in 2005-06; 2006-07 and 2007-08 I refer my right hon. Friend to the answers given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) and the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 11 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 371-72W, and the answer I gave the hon. Member for Cardiff Central (Jenny Willott) on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1004W. HMRC received around 12,100 appeals against tax credits decisions in 2008-09.

The number of appeals made against child benefit decisions in each year is shown in the following table.

	Child Benefit (Thousand)
2005-06	3.3
2006-07[1]	3.7
2007-08	4.2
2008-09	6.0

[1] Appeals from N Ireland Child Benefit customers included from 13 March 2006.

Welfare Tax Credits: Complaints

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest time to resolve a tax credits complaint by a member of the public was in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [308111]

Mr. Timms: The information on average and longest time is not available.

The following table sets out the time taken to provide a substantive response to written complaints on tax credits in 2008-09.

Response times to written complaints on tax credits by the Tax Credit Office in 2008-09

Cl[illegible]n	*Percentage clearance*	*Cumulative percentage*
Less [illegible] week	3	3
1 to 2 weeks	14	16
2 to 3 weeks	18	34
3 to 4 weeks	14	48
4 to 5 weeks	11	59
Over 5 weeks	41	100

For information relating to earlier years I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 368-69W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Expenditure

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of reducing the second income threshold in the tax credit system from £50,000 to £40,000; and if he will estimate the number of people who would have their awards reduced to zero as a result. [304667]

Mr. Timms: The estimated annual saving from reducing the second income threshold from £50,000 to £40,000 is around £135 million. As a result of this change an estimated 195,000 families would have their awards reduced to zero, assuming a 6.67 per cent. taper rate for families with income above £40,000.

Wind Farms

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many wind farms are on the Valuation Office Agency *(a)* local rating list and *(b)* national rating list; and what criteria are used to determine the list on which a hereditament is placed. [306728]

Ian Pearson: All 116 onshore wind farms in England and Wales appear on the local rating lists, none are on the central lists.

All hereditaments that are not exempt and not wholly domestic are required to be shown in a local rating list unless the Secretary of State has designated the occupier as a person whose hereditaments are required to be shown in a central list.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on decompression periods for its staff working in Afghanistan. [305763]

Chris Bryant: Current Foreign and Commonwealth Office policy on decompression breaks in Afghanistan is that staff work a six week at Post/two weeks decompression break rotation. Decompression breaks are linked to the overall security situation, which can change over a posting. Staff may be reduced or withdrawn as the security situation improves.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department plans to increase the number of its personnel stationed in Afghanistan in the next 12 months. [307733]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are no plans to increase the number of staff in Afghanistan at present. However, we constantly review our staffing requirements to ensure we have sufficient numbers of staff to meet our objectives in Afghanistan.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans are in place to ensure that Christmas cards and gifts reach officials of his Department in Afghanistan in time for Christmas. [307736]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have an arrangement with the British Forces Post Office for the delivery of mail to civilian personnel serving in Afghanistan on behalf of the Government.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's Statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-36W, on Afghanistan and Pakistan, what agreements have been reached with *(a)* the government of Afghanistan and *(b)* international partners on sources of funding for the programme of economic growth; how much such funding he expects to be available to that programme; and when he expects that programme to be implemented. [304937]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

In June 2008, the Government of Afghanistan published its Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), covering the period 2008 to 2013. The international community pledged a total of US $21 billion to the ANDS, with Afghan domestic revenues expected to contribute US $6.8 billion.

The Department for International Development (DFID) committed £510 million to implementation of the ANDS between 2009 and 2013. The alignment of DFID funding with ANDS priorities is enhanced by channelling at least 50 per cent. of resources through Afghan Government systems.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what projects sponsored by his Department in Afghanistan have had their funding reduced in each year since 2001; and in respect of which such projects his Department plans to reduce its level of funding. [305471]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: While funding to some individual projects has decreased, total Foreign and Commonwealth Office programme expenditure in Afghanistan has increased from £11 million in financial year 2002-03 to £91.55 million in financial year 2009-10.

Reductions in individual project funding can occur for several reasons, including: reprioritisation between different projects within strategic programmes; activities within projects reaching their natural end; fluctuating currency exchange rates.

For the financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07 inclusive, the information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 2007 the following projects have had funding reduced when compared with the previous financial year:

Financial year 2007 to 2008

Survey Monitoring Target Verification
United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
Counter Narcotics Research and Analysis

Financial year 2008 to 2009

Institutions Support and Mentoring
Eradication Support
Survey Monitoring Target Verification
United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
Information Operations
Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan
Criminal Justice Task Force
Extend Afghan Media Content
Helmand Area Based Commander's Stabilisation Fund
Counter Narcotics Research and Analysis
Lashkar Gah Prison Build

Financial year 2009 to 2010

Institutions Support and Mentoring
Eradication Support
Survey Monitoring Target Verification
United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime
Information Operations
Counter Narcotics Research and Analysis
Counter Narcotics Interdiction
Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan
Criminal Justice Task Force
Political Activity (Elections)
Extend Afghan Media Content
Civilianising the Afghan Ministry of Defence
Monitoring and Evaluation/Portfolio Review
Support to Afghan National Police
Support to Informal Justice System
Lashkar Gah District Stabilisation
Musa Qala District Stabilisation
Sangin District Stabilisation
Garmsir District Stabilisation
Helmand Area Based Commander's Stabilisation Fund.

It is not possible to provide information on future reductions in funding because plans for financial year 2010-11 are currently being formulated.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what projects sponsored by his Department in Afghanistan have been wound up or discontinued in each year since 2001; and for which projects sponsored by his Department in Afghanistan a date for winding up or discontinuance has been set. [305472]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Project closure occurs for a number of reasons including: completed delivery; evaluation that further expenditure will not deliver sufficient value-for-money for the project to remain viable; merger with another project; transfer of the project to another donor.

For the financial years 2001-02 to 2005-06 inclusive, the information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since 2006 the following projects have been closed or have ceased to be funded by the FCO:

Financial year 2006 to 2007

Ministry of Counter Narcotics Communications Project

Financial year 2007 to 2008

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Project Team
Publicity Project
Joint training programme for Afghan/Pakistani journalists
Support for Afghan National Army - patrol vehicles
Strengthening Peace Programme
Train the Trainer demining programme
HALO Trust
Drug Demand Reduction

Financial year 2008 to 2009

Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan Mobile Detection Teams
Helmand Police Drug Control Use
Newsletters for Mullahs
Campaign to support Reconciliation
Detention Facility Project
Women Affecting Change Action Aid
Afghan Women Council
Afghan Women's Hour.

It is not possible to provide information on future project closures because plans for 2010-11 are currently being formulated.

Andrew Symeou

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers at his Department, *(c)* officials of his Department, *(d)* officials at the British Embassy in Greece and *(e)* British Consular staff in Greece have had with the Greek authorities on the detention of Andrew Symeou; and if he will make a statement. [308718]

Chris Bryant: There have been no ministerial discussions with the Greek authorities over this case.

On 25 November 2009, our ambassador to Greece met the newly appointed Greek Minister of Justice and registered our interest in several consular cases involving British nationals, including that of Andrew Symeou.

Our consular staff in Greece have been liaising with the Greek police and prison authorities since Andrew Symeou was extradited and detained in July 2009. Their role is essentially one of welfare and they are not able to become involved in the legal aspects of his case. The Greek authorities are not obliged to provide consular officials with information about the judicial progress of consular cases involving British nationals and in Andrew Symeou's case have not done so.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department is providing to Andrew Symeou, detained in Korydallos prison in Athens; what assessment his Department has made of conditions of detention at the prison; and if he will make a statement. [308720]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and our embassy in Athens have been providing appropriate consular assistance to Mr. Symeou and his family since his extradition to Greece in July 2009 on manslaughter charges. The consular role when a British national is detained overseas is essentially one of welfare. We actively monitor the well-being of British nationals who are arrested or detained and try to ensure that their treatment is in line with internationally accepted standards and local practices.

The British consul in Greece visited Mr. Symeou in Korydallos prison on 18 December 2009. The assessment from the consular staff was that Mr. Symeou's detention is in line with local standards. The consular section of our embassy in Athens provides a guidance pack for British nationals imprisoned in Greece which explains about the Greek prison system and gives information about general prison conditions. Should consular staff have concerns over the treatment of Mr. Symeou then we would consider raising these with the relevant authorities with Mr. Symeou's permission.

Consular staff will continue to monitor Mr. Symeou's welfare and will provide him with all appropriate assistance while he is in Greece.

Association of South East Asian Nations: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the Government are providing to the new ASEAN inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights. [308004]

Chris Bryant: The UK welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission for Human Rights (AICHR) when it was formally launched in October 2009. At this stage member countries are in the process of deciding where the institution will be based and have appointed national Commissioners. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have already met with the representative of the Philippines. Our accredited Ambassador to ASEAN is following developments. The UK, and the EU as a whole, is currently considering the assistance and technical expertise that it could usefully provide to the AICHR as it develops. The UK will continue to engage with civil society with ASEAN countries on human rights issues, and encourage the establishment of formal links between these groups and the AICHR.

Australia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next expects to meet his Australian counterpart to discuss *(a)* UK-Australian relations and *(b)* global issues. [308357]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State speaks to Stephen Smith, his Australian counter part on a regular basis on a full range of issues including climate change, Afghanistan, Fiji and the Commonwealth and UK-Australian relations. The last formal bilateral talks were held in the UK in November 2008. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met Stephen Smith at the time of the UN General Assembly in October 2009 in New York. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State hopes to meet his Australian counterpart at the Afghanistan Conference due to be held in London in January 2010.

British Indian Ocean Territory

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what tsunami-warning systems are in place for the purposes of protecting the British Indian Ocean Territory. [309083]

Chris Bryant: There are no tsunami-warning systems in the British Indian Ocean Territory. However, in the event of a tsunami, military personnel on Diego Garcia would receive warnings from the UK and US.

British Indian Ocean Territory: Environment Protection

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for St Ives of 9 December 2009, *Official Report,* column 356W, on the British Indian Ocean Territory: environment protection, when he expects the consultation on the establishment of a Marine Protected Area to conclude. [308817]

Chris Bryant: 12 February 2010.

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many offenders held in prisons in *(a)* in Cayman Islands, *(b)* Anguilla and *(c)* the British Virgin Islands are serving time for knife-related offences. [309077]

Chris Bryant: The prison authorities in the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands have advised that there are currently no offenders serving time for knife-related offences. Anguilla has advised that 20 offenders are serving time for knife-related offences. Of this number, 10 have been convicted and 10 are on remand.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many offenders held in prisons in *(a)* the Cayman Islands, *(b)* Anguilla and *(c)* the British Virgin Islands are serving time for drug-related offences. [309078]

Chris Bryant: The prison authorities in the Cayman Islands, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands have advised that there are 49, four and 21 prisoners serving time for drug-related offences in each territory respectively. There are a further 20 offenders in the Cayman Islands and two offenders in the British Virgin Islands on remand.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any Royal visits to the *(a)* British Overseas Territories and *(b)* Crown Dependencies are planned to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [309081]

Chris Bryant: Planning for the Queen's diamond jubilee celebrations is at an early stage. Royal visits overseas are not announced until a few weeks before a visit takes place.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on the development of an over-arching, long-term template for energy generation in the British Overseas Territories. [309102]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for energy issues has been devolved to the overseas territories. I have not discussed the development of an over-arching, long-term template for energy generation in the British overseas territories with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. However, where necessary our respective Departments liaise over energy issues relating to the overseas territories.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the proportion of those children eligible to attend who are enrolled in the education system in *(a)* Bermuda, *(b)* Anguilla and *(c)* the British Virgin Islands. [309104]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for education in Bermuda, Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands rests with the Government of each territory. The Government do not hold this information.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to take steps to enable British Overseas Territories to apply for funding for environmental conservation projects through the Global Environment Facility. [309108]

Chris Bryant: The Government have asked the independent Global Environment Facility to consider funding for environmental projects in the overseas territories, but this has been refused. We therefore assist the overseas territories in seeking funding for environmental projects from other sources.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which British Overseas Territories are members of the Global Island Partnership. [309109]

Chris Bryant: The following British overseas territories are members of the Global Island Partnership:

British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Gibraltar
St. Helena
Tristan da Cunha
Ascension.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much high-level radioactive waste is stored in each of the British Overseas Territories. [309111]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for environmental and energy-related matters rests with the governments of the overseas territories who hold the requested information.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 10 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 166W, on British Overseas Territories: young offenders, how many of the 2,578 records of persons aged 16 years and under held on the Overseas Territories Regional Crime Intelligence System refer to *(a)* drug and *(b)* alcohol-related offences. [309276]

Chris Bryant: Of the 2,578 records held on the Overseas Territories Regional Criminal Intelligence System that relate to young offenders aged 16 and under, 144 are drug related and 28 are alcohol related.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which British Overseas Territories have a National Olympic Committee. [309222]

Chris Bryant: Three British overseas territories have a National Olympic Committee which is recognised by the International Olympic Committee: Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands.

Burma: United Nations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with UN counterparts on securing a replacement for Mr Ibrahim Gambari as the UN Special Envoy to Burma; and if he will make a statement. [307999]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The replacement of Ibrahim Gambari as UN envoy to Burma is a matter for the UN Secretary General. However, Burma remains high on the Government's agenda and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister regularly speaks with the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki - moon, about the issue. We have underlined our ongoing support for his personal engagement and the role of his good offices mission. We are aware that Mr. Gambari will become head of the UN-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur and we look forward to working closely with whoever is chosen to replace him in this important role.

Caribbean

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the proportion of waste products *(a)* disposed of in landfills and *(b)* recycled in each of the British Caribbean Overseas Territories. [309112]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for waste disposal and re-cycling in the Caribbean overseas territories rests with the government of each territory. The Government do not hold this information.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the average energy consumption by household in each British Caribbean Overseas Territory. [309113]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for energy consumption in the Caribbean overseas territories rests with the government of each territory. The Government do not hold this information.

Caribbean: Crime Prevention

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support his Department has provided to the governments of British Caribbean Overseas Territories to assist with anti-knife and anti-firearms campaigns. [309098]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded overseas territories law enforcement adviser based in Miami (a former Metropolitan police officer) provides advice and guidance to governors and overseas territory leaders and police commissioners. Specific assistance is being given to Bermuda where the law enforcement adviser is in contact with the Commissioner of Police and UK and US law enforcement agencies.

Caribbean: Human Trafficking

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had on people-trafficking in the British Caribbean Overseas Territories with representatives of those territories. [309099]

Chris Bryant: People trafficking was discussed at a Foreign and Commonwealth Office-funded workshop for Chief Immigration Officers in the Cayman Islands in February 2009, and at the Caribbean Overseas Territories and Bermuda Criminal Justice Conference in the British Virgin Islands in May 2009 attended by customs, immigration, police and prison departments.

The Overseas Territories Law Enforcement Adviser holds regular discussions with the police and immigration department in the Turks and Caicos Islands and the US Coast Guard about the trafficking of Haitian migrants.

Caribbean: Wind Power

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the number of wind turbines operating in each of the British Caribbean Overseas Territories. [309089]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for energy and wind turbines in the Caribbean Overseas Territories rests with the Government of each territory.

Climate Change: Antarctic

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the British Antarctic Survey has commissioned research into the causes and effects of climate change and global warming in the last three years. [309223]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the replies given on 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 376W and on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1239W. As indicated previously, the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) has developed a new strategic science plan, Polar Science for Planet Earth. This is described in a new publication (http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/about_bas/publications/pspe_document.pdf) which identifies several critical research challenges concerning climate change and its impacts. In addition BAS is leading a major initiative (Ice2sea), funded by the EU, aimed at improving projections of the contribution of ice to future sea-level rise.

Colombia

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will visit Colombia to discuss reports of murders of trade unionists in that country. [308362]

Chris Bryant: I have no plans to visit Colombia for the time being.

Colombia: EU External Trade

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on proposals for a free trade agreement between Colombia and the EU. [307910]

Chris Bryant: The UK supports free trade agreements with developing countries like Colombia because we believe the resulting economic opportunities lead to better social conditions. The UK has led efforts within the EU to ensure that the human rights clause is a key component of the agreement, which enables suspension of the agreement if it is breached. The clause will act as a catalyst for frank dialogue with the Government of Colombia on the issue.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of representations made by hon. Members and legislators in other EU national parliaments requesting ratification of an EU-Colombia free trade agreement to be withheld until there have been an internationally-ratified improvement in *(a)* human rights, *(b)* trades union rights and *(c)* prosecutions against offences of organised crime, narcotic crime and corruption; and if he will make a statement. [308060]

Chris Bryant: I am neither privy to representations made by fellow EU members in their respective national parliaments, nor would it be appropriate for me to comment on them.

The UK supports free trade agreements with developing countries like Colombia because we believe the resulting economic opportunities lead to better social conditions. The UK has led efforts within the EU to ensure that the human rights clause is a key component of the agreement, which enables suspension of the agreement if it is breached. The clause will act as a catalyst for frank dialogue with the Government of Colombia on the issue.

Crown Dependencies

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories have not implemented the provisions of the UN Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. [307349]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

Two Crown Dependencies (the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey) have not yet implemented the provisions of the UN convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women but have begun the necessary preparatory work. The convention and its Optional Protocol have however been extended to the Isle of Man.

The convention has so far been extended to three Overseas Territories (the British Virgin Islands, the Falkland Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands). At the 2009 Overseas Territories Consultative Council, Overseas Territories leaders agreed to finalise action within the territories to enable extension of the convention to all the populated territories during 2010.

Information on the ratification of UN conventions is in the public domain at:

http://treaties.un.org/Pages/Treaties.aspx?id=4&subid=A&lang=en

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories have not implemented the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. [307350]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

Two Crown Dependencies (the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey) have not yet implemented the provisions of the UN convention on the rights of the child but have begun the necessary preparatory work. The convention has been extended to the Isle of Man, though not as yet the Optional Protocols.

The convention has been extended to all of the Overseas Territories except Gibraltar.

Information on the ratification of UN conventions is in the public domain at:

http://treaties.un.org/Pages/Treaties.aspx?id=4&subid=A&lang=en

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories have not implemented the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [307351]

Mr. Wills: I have been asked to reply.

None of the Crown Dependencies has yet implemented the provisions of the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, but they have begun the necessary preparatory work. No Overseas Territories have yet implemented the provisions of the convention.

Information on the ratification of UN conventions is in the public domain at:

http://treaties.un.org/Pages/Treaties.aspx?id=4&subid=A&lang=en

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on art works in the last 12 months. [306443]

Chris Bryant: Works of art displayed in Foreign and Commonwealth Office buildings in the UK and throughout the network are from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. The most recent details of acquisitions made by the GAC were published on 5 October 2009 and are available on the GAC website:

http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/information/publications.asp

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308827]

Chris Bryant: The information on conferences organised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's network of diplomatic posts overseas and Directorates in the UK is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

Over the last three years Wilton Park has organised and then cancelled only one conference:

June 2008—Tackling Overseas Bribery: developing the UK strategy

The only cancellation cost incurred was £990.26 for flights.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what pay band his Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307565]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to pages 94 and 96 of Volume Two of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Departmental Report and Resource Accounts for Financial Year 2008-09 (HC 460-11), a copy of which is in the Library of the House. The FCO's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed on a fixed term contract.

The CIO's total budget for financial year 2009-10 is £114 million for administration costs and £46 million capital expenditure.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the FCO-DfID Shared Services Plan of November 2006, whether the deadline to harmonise the pay and conditions of support staff in co-located offices by March 2009 has been met; and what arrangements exist for harmonisation of the pay and conditions of non-support staff in co-located offices. [307046]

David Miliband: Following a period of consultation and production of guidance, this exercise is now well under way. The process involves review and alignment of terms and conditions of service for locally engaged staff through joint pay reviews. Five posts have already completed the exercise and 12 more have started the process. The remainder of the posts concerned will undertake the exercise during 2010.

Departmental Personnel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in what capacity *(a)* Nicholas Banner and *(b)* Gavin Mackay are employed by his Department. [309258]

Chris Bryant: Nicholas Banner is on unpaid leave from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). Gavin Mackay has now retired from the FCO.

Departmental Training

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location and *(c)* cost was of each of the last four Departmental away days that he attended. [305508]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign Secretary attends the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Board away day twice a year. The details of the last four meetings are as follows:

17 September 2009 at 1 Carlton Gardens, total cost: £591;

5 January 2009 at Chevening Estate, total cost: £1,797;

30 October 2008 at 1 Carlton Gardens, total cost: £540;

30-31 March 2008 at Chevening Estate, total cost: £5,024.

No venue costs were incurred for the 30 October 2008 and 17 September 2009 meetings.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307517]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) holds away days in the UK and overseas to support delivery of its departmental strategic objectives. Civil servants in the FCO regularly attend conferences, organised by the FCO or by other organisations. Many of these take place outside FCO buildings.

The FCO does not hold centrally data about away days or conferences. It would not therefore be possible to supply data about the number or costs of these attended by civil servants since 2005 without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Diplomatic Service: South America

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many consular staff his Department employs in each of its embassies in South America. [308359]

Chris Bryant: The number of full time equivalent (FTE) staff carrying out consular activities in South America is 27.5.

The following table provides the details by post within South America.

Post name	*Consular FTE*
Bogota	2.8
Brasilia	0.6
Buenos Aires	3.6
Caracas	4.0
Lima	3.2
Montevideo	0.7
Quito	2.4
Rio de Janeiro	4.2
Santiago	3.3
Sao Paulo	2.9

East Asia: EU Action

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the appointment of an EU special representative for human rights and security in East Asia, with particular reference to China and North Korea. [illegible]08018]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Responsibility for human rights and security in East Asia will be part of the remit of the new EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European External Action Service which she will manage. The UK will argue for the High Representative to place a high priority on these issues.

Eritrea

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 497W, on Eritrea, what the outcome was of the meeting of European Union heads of Mission and the Eritrean Government; what progress has been made in the dialogue on human rights issues; what reports he has received of the number of political prisoners in Eritrea; and if he will make a statement. [307917]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: EU Heads of Mission in Asmara met with members of the Eritrean Government on 19 November 2009 as part of an ongoing dialogue under Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement—a forum promoting political dialogue and cooperation between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific states. The Eritrean Government said that the basic rights of the G11—eleven members of the then Eritrean Government that remain in prison since their arrest in 2001—were respected. There was discussion around aspects of human rights including the rights of children, women and the disabled, and in the education and health sectors. We continue to have very serious concerns, however, over many human rights issues in Eritrea, including the lack of political, media and religious freedom.

It is very difficult to know how many political prisoners are held in Eritrea. Access to prisons is extremely restricted and records of detainees are not made available. Estimates from human rights organisations vary considerably, ranging up to thirty thousand. We are unable to verify this, however.

Eritrea: Ethiopia

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* European Union and *(b)* African Union counterparts on the implementation of the International Court of Justice ruling on the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia; and if he will make a statement. [307916]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, for which the Permanent Court of Arbitration served as registry, delivered its decision on the boundary dispute in April 2002. The dispute remains unresolved and impacts on the wider Horn of Africa security situation.

The Government discuss the issue of the border dispute in their bilateral meetings with the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea. The wider regional security situation has been discussed at ministerial level by my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe, Chris Bryant, at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council in November 2009 and by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary with the Somali President Sheikh Sharif in September. Ambassador-level discussion took place at the African Union in October 2009.

European External Action Service

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether EU defence attachés or military representatives are planned to form part of the EU's External Action Service; and if he will make a statement. [304347]

Chris Bryant: The detailed organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (EEAS) will be decided by EU member states by unanimity on the basis of a draft Decision from the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy with the consent of the European Commission and after consulting the European Parliament. But member states (endorsed by their comments to the October 2009 European Council) believe that the current European Security and Defence Policy and crisis management structures should be part of the EEAS. This includes the Military Staff while taking full account of the specificities of these structures and preserving their particular functions, procedures and staffing conditions. The European Council agreed that this Decision to establish the EEAS should be adopted by the end of April 2010.

Falkland Islands: Land Mines

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects arising from mine-clearing operations on the Falkland Islands. [309091]

Chris Bryant: The Government's contracted mine clearance programme for the Falkland Islands has the objective of safely clearing four land mine sites with minimal environmental impact. Pre-clearance activities undertaken by BACTEC International Ltd., the primary de-mining contractor, include submission to the Falkland Islands Environmental Planning department of an environmental restoration plan for each site to the conditions existing before contamination. This has been completed and clearance work is under way.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress the government of the Falkland Islands has made in meeting its obligations under the Ottawa Treaty on mine clearance. [309092]

Chris Bryant: The Government are responsible as a state party to the Ottawa convention for removing anti-personnel mines from the Falkland Islands, as a British Overseas Territory.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently funding a four-site clearance programme, which started on 4 December 2009 and is expected to be completed by the middle of 2010. The sites form a representative sample of the islands' varied terrain and contain a significant quantity of mines. The results of this programme will inform future work.

The Falkland Islands Government have been and will continue to be consulted on all issues related to de-mining.

Falkland Islands: Oil

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's most recent estimate is of the volume of oil deposits off the Falkland Islands. [309093]

Chris Bryant: Companies have not yet found hydrocarbons in commercially viable quantities in Falkland Islands waters. Exploratory drilling is expected to recommence in early 2010 and we will wait for the results of that exploration.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are being taken to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects arising from drilling for oil off the Falkland Islands. [309094]

Chris Bryant: Companies drilling in Falkland Islands waters must take the same measures they would if they were drilling in UK waters. All companies have to complete environmental impact assessments which must be approved by the Falkland Islands Government in consultation with the Department of Energy and Climate Change. The Government also fund external reviews of assessments by UK institutions such as the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and the Scottish Association of Marine Science.

Falkland Islands: Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of tourists who have arrived in the Falkland Islands in each year since 2005; and how many such tourists arrived by cruise ship in each such year. [309080]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for tourism in the Falkland Islands rests with the Falkland Islands Government who hold the requested information.

Fiji: Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of relations between Fiji and the UK; and if he will make a statement. [308361]

Chris Bryant: I refer my hon. Friend to my previous answer on 27 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 423W. The UK does not regard the current regime as a legitimate, democratically elected government and we continue to raise our concerns over the human rights situation in Fiji. My most recent statement on Fiji was made after the expulsion of the Australian and New Zealand envoys in which I expressed deep disappointment at the regime's actions but noted that diplomatic channels must be kept open. We continue to engage with the regime at official level to get across our key messages with the aim of encouraging Fiji towards a return to democratic principles, the rule of law and respect for fundamental human rights.

Gibraltar: Territorial Waters

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the European Court of Justice in respect of the application by the Government of Gibraltar to reverse the designation by Spain of Gibraltarian territorial waters as a site of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region for which Spain is responsible. [306662]

Chris Bryant: The UK has sought and received permission from the European General Court to intervene in support of the government of Gibraltar's application seeking annulment of Commission Decision 2009/95/EC updating a list of sites of Community importance for the Mediterranean biogeographical region insofar as it relates to the "Estrecho Oriental" site.

We have made representations to both the European Commission and Spain in order to object to their actions in this matter and have placed on record that the UK does not recognise the validity of the Spanish listing. We object that Spain should have sought to have an area of British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) listed and that this listing should have been approved. The UK is the only State competent to propose a site of Community importance within BGTW.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Gibraltar on the dispute over British Gibraltar territorial waters. [309096]

Chris Bryant: We are in regular contact with the Government of Gibraltar on this matter and related issues. We fully support the Government of Gibraltar on the dispute over the Spanish listing of "Estrecho Oriental" as a Site of Community Importance (SCI) under the Habitats Directive.

The United Kingdom has sought and received permission from the European General Court to intervene in support of the Government of Gibraltar's application for annulment of Commission Decision 2009/95/EC updating a list of SCIs for the Mediterranean biogeographical region insofar as it relates to the "Estrecho Oriental" site.

Meanwhile officials from the UK, Spain and Gibraltar are committed to working together through the trilateral forum to improve environmental co-operation.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the Spanish government's recent assertion of claims to waters off the coast of Gibraltar under the designation of EU environmental protection on *(a)* fishing rights, *(b)* aerospace considerations and *(c)* development rights. [309101]

Chris Bryant: The UK does not recognise the validity of the listing of a Site of Community Importance (SCI) in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) by Spain since the UK is the only member state competent to propose a site covering BGTW. We are fully confident of the United Kingdom's sovereignty of BGTW.

Government Hospitality: Wines

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009 to the hon. Member for Monmouth, *Official Report*, column 1033W, on Government Departments: wine, how many bottles of wine from each *(a)* region of origin and *(b)* vintage are held in the Government hospitality wine cellar. [309243]

Chris Bryant: It is not possible to give a detailed breakdown of the numbers of bottles per vintage of each country and region without incurring disproportionate costs. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the then Under-Secretary of State Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 20 April 2009, *Official Report*, column 512W.

Horn of Africa: EU Action

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 498W, on the Horn of Africa: EU, what progress has been made on the appointment of a European Union special representative to the Horn of Africa. [307915]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Further discussion on the appointment of an EU special representative (EUSR) to the Horn of Africa recently took place at EU working group level in the context of the conclusions on the Horn of Africa agreed at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) of December 2009. It was agreed that should a decision be taken to appoint an EUSR for the Horn of Africa, the terms of reference should reflect the EU policy adopted at the December 2009 GAERC and facilitate its implementation.

Iran: Politics and Government

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made recent representations to the Iranian Government on Baha'is in Iran. [309176]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Alongside our EU partners we have expressed concerns about the treatment of the Baha'i community in Iran to the Iranian Government on several occasions. The EU Presidency summoned the Iranian Ambassador on 10 July 2009, and expressed deep concern about the overall situation of the Baha'is in Iran, especially the charges 'espionage and "corruption on earth"' against the seven Baha'i leaders imprisoned for over a year without trial. Most recently, on 18 December 2009, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on human rights in Iran for the seventh consecutive year. The resolution condemns 'attacks on Baha'is and their faith in State-sponsored media, increasing evidence of efforts by the State to identify, monitor and arbitrarily detain Baha'is, preventing members of the Baha'i faith from attending university and from sustaining themselves economically'. We will continue to urge Iran to respect the right to freedom of religion and belief as described in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a State Party.

Iraq: Casualties

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Iraqi locally employed civilians have been killed as a result of their association with the Government since 9 October 2009. [307855]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are not aware of any such killings since 9 October 2009.

Israel: Borders

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when HM Ambassador to Israel most recently visited the Karni crossing. [306794]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Officials from our embassy in Tel Aviv regularly visit the Karni crossing. Karni is the largest crossing point between Israel and Gaza and is covered by the 2005 agreement on movement and access between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. It is the only crossing configured to cope with large-scale flows of humanitarian relief and the commercial imports and exports on which the restoration of the Gazan economy will depend.

Kirsty MacColl

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his Mexican counterpart and *(b)* the Mexican Ambassador to the UK in the case of Kirsty MacColl; and if he will make a statement. [308356]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any discussions this year, on the case of Kirsty MacColl, with either the Mexican Foreign Minister or the Mexican ambassador to the UK. However, our embassy in Mexico City will continue to monitor any developments in the case.

Kosovo: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on Kosovo's declaration of independence; and if he will make a statement. [307788]

Chris Bryant: The UK abstained on the UN General Assembly resolution seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legality of Kosovo's declaration of independence. We strongly support the Court, but believe that Serbia's primary motivation for the question was political and that the resolution was pushed through with insufficient debate on its substance.

The UK has participated actively in the Court's proceedings, making two written submissions and an oral statement.

The UK explained to the Court that the declaration of independence was not incompatible with either general international law or UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1244. UNSCR 1244 set a framework for status negotiations; it did not predestine any particular outcome. The negotiating process was pursued with commitment by many, including the international community. However, these exhaustive attempts to achieve an agreed resolution ultimately failed. This led the UN Special Envoy for the Future Status Process for Kosovo to conclude that independence was the only viable solution.

A number of very particular factual circumstances, including the violent break-up of Yugoslavia, serious human rights abuses against Kosovo Albanians by Serbia, and the sustained involvement of the international community in the attempt to achieve a resolution make Kosovo a sui generis case which creates no wider precedent for developments elsewhere.

To date, 64 countries have recognised Kosovo and it is now a member of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. The clock cannot be turned back on Kosovo's independence—it is a reality.

The text of the UK submissions to the Court is available on the ICJ website:

http://www.icj-cij.org

Members: Correspondence

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 10 September 2009 concerning the visa section in Benghazi, Libya ref: PM/OP/Shafie. [307126]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

A reply from the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Hackney, South and Shoreditch (Meg Hillier) was sent on 10 December 2009.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice he has received on whether the blockade of Gaza constitutes collective punishment within the meaning of the Fourth Geneva Convention. [306771]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Although there is no permanent physical Israeli presence in Gaza, given the significant control that Israel has over Gaza's borders, airspace and territorial waters, Israel retains obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention as an occupying power. We are very concerned at both continued Israeli restrictions and the ongoing threat to civilians in southern Israel from indiscriminate rocket attacks. We will continue to press the Israeli Government to ease their restrictions on the crossings into Gaza.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has reviewed the compatibility of the blockade of Gaza with the obligations of Israel in respect of trade and human rights under *(a)* the EU-Israel Association Agreement, *(b)* the EU-Palestinian Authority Interim Association Agreement and *(c)* its membership of the World Trade Organisation. [306775]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Securing better access to Gaza remains a high priority for the Government.

The relationship between the European Communities, EU member states and Israel set out in the EU-Israel Association Agreement depends on respect for human rights and democratic principles as set out in Article 2. Article 3 of the Agreement establishes a regular dialogue between the EU and Israel which takes place through the annual EU-Israel Association Council, and the preparatory Association Committees and sub-committees. The Government and the EU continue to urge the Israeli Government to open the crossings into Gaza more fully.

The Interim Association Agreement on Trade and Cooperation between the European Community and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority) does not impose obligations on Israel.

The obligations placed upon Israel by its membership of the World Trade Organisation are not relevant to resolving concerns over the Gaza blockade.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on the introduction of the Israeli buffer zone in Gaza. [306783]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: According to UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the Israeli "buffer zone" inside Gaza makes up approximately 30 per cent. of all arable land. While Israel has the right to defend itself, we are concerned at the impact of the "buffer zone" on Palestinian farmers and the population of Gaza.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to intensify efforts to provide *(a)* arrangements and *(b)* guarantees to ensure the sustained reopening of crossing points on the basis of the 2005 Agreement on Movement as required under action 6 of UN Security Council Resolution 1860; and what arrangements and guarantees have been put in place in the last 12 months. [306785]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We continue to urge the Israeli Government to open the crossings into Gaza not only for humanitarian supplies, but also for reconstruction materials, commercial trade and people—as called for by UN Security Council Resolution 1860. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made this clear to the Prime Minister of Israel on 14 October 2009.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development has also recently written to the Israeli Government about this matter, and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this with the Israeli Foreign Minister on 25 November 2009. Securing better access to Gaza will remain a high priority for the Government.

UN Security Council Resolution 1860 was also clear on the need to prevent illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition. We also call on Hamas to cease all rocket attacks and immediately release Gilad Shalit.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 429W, on the Middle East: armed conflict, what the nature is of *(a)* the toxic materials that have been identified and *(b)* the contamination detected; and if he will make a statement. [307178]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

The contamination found in rubble in Gaza since the end of the conflict comprises items of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and parts or pieces thereof (explosive remnants of war—ERW), as well as small arms ammunition. According to the UN Mines Action Team, 28 per cent. of the UXO/ERW found to early June contained white phosphorus, and 72 per cent. contained high explosives.

With the Department for International Development's (DFID's) support, the UN Mines Action Team is working to remove UXO and other items from destroyed buildings and agricultural land.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 305W, on the Middle East: armed conflict, what the legal restraints are that apply to implementation of the Prime Minister's proposal of naval assistance to interdict arms smuggling to Gaza. [307179]

David Miliband: Maritime interdiction operations concerning Gaza must be carried out in accordance with the applicable rules of international law, including the provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Interdiction operations must be authorised either by the flag state, as well as the coastal state if in territorial waters, or under a resolution of the UN Security Council, or justified for reasons of self-defence. Action to take forward my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's initiative therefore needs to be carefully considered in light of the facts and circumstances of the particular case.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made at the United Nations General Assembly to ensure that a full investigation is undertaken into the findings of the Goldstone Report on the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict. [309023]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK along with our EU partners played our full part in the 4-5 November 2009 UN General Assembly debate on the Goldstone report. We worked hard before the vote to reach a consensus on a resolution we could support. In the end we had to abstain, with France and 42 others, because voting for would have meant endorsing the report and ignoring its flaws. However, we maintain that the issues raised by the report are serious and the parties should address them. We were fully supportive of the core of the resolution: the need for credible, independent investigations.

Middle East: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of the 32 million euro in European Union funding for the reconstruction in Gaza announced by the Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy in March 2009 has been disbursed; and if he will make a statement. [307057]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

The €32 million pledge for Gaza made by the Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy in March 2009 was for humanitarian aid and early recovery activities. Since then, the European Union (EU) has more than exceeded disbursement of its pledge through a range of activities including cash for work and removal of rubble and unexploded ordnance.

Like the Department for International Development (DFID), the EU has been unable to spend money on formal reconstruction activities in Gaza due to Israeli restrictions on the import of essential materials.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what initiatives he has proposed to his overseas counterparts to overcome restrictions on the entry of materials for reconstruction into Gaza; and what his policy is on overcoming such restrictions. [307058]

David Miliband: Along with our key international allies, the UK continues to press the Israeli authorities to ease border restrictions into Gaza. It is imperative the Israeli authorities permit the passage of essential humanitarian aid and reconstruction material. I have raised my concerns during conversations with my counterpart and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development has similarly raised them. These concerns were also highlighted at the EU Foreign Ministers' meeting on 8 December 2009.

The UK is a strong supporter of the UN's Framework for Humanitarian Assistance to Gaza, a statement of key humanitarian principles on access and non-interference with humanitarian aid. The UN will shortly produce its second report against the Framework, tracking compliance of the parties to the conflict with the principles in the Framework. We have raised the Framework in discussions with the Government of Israel.

Mott MacDonald

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 320-324W, on departmental contracts, what the purpose was of the contract with Mott MacDonald listed as Basra: Hollyoaks-Additional Protection; when funds under that contract were disbursed; what assessment was made of the benefits to his Department of that expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [305476]

Chris Bryant: The purpose of the contract with Mott MacDonald was to design and build additional physical security measures at Basra Air Station. The additional measures were required because in early 2008 the base was experiencing a significant amount of indirect fire from insurgents in the form of mortars and rockets.

Mott MacDonald had a design office at the air base together with access to contractors to carry out the building work. The contract value was £142,082.50 and payment was made in May 2008 following completion of the works on 30 April 2008.

After the work was completed the additional measures afforded staff a greater level of protection on numerous occasions when the base was subjected to mortar and rocket attack.

North Korea: Asylum

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will urge the Government of the People's Republic of China to create a corridor of access to allow the United Nations to assist North Korean refugees in China. [308016]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We raise the issue of North Korean refugees with Chinese officials at every appropriate opportunity. Most recently I raised it when I visited China in September 2009. We are concerned about the fate of these migrants if they are returned to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We continue to press China to grant the UN High Commissioner for Refugees access to the border region.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will urge the government of the People's Republic of China to take steps to prevent North Korean agents abducting North Korean refugees from China. [308017]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We occasionally hear reports from non-governmental organisations that North Korean agents have abducted North Korean refugees and those working with them in China. We do not have reports of any recent cases. We raise our concerns about the welfare of North Korean refugees with the Chinese Government at every appropriate opportunity. Most recently I raised it during my visit to China in September 2009 and urged China to grant the UN High Commission for Refugees access to the border region.

North Korea: Human Rights

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps at the United Nations to seek the establishment of a commission of inquiry into alleged crimes against humanity in North Korea. [307783]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK is very concerned about the human rights situation in North Korea. For action at UN level, our priority is for North Korea engagement in the Universal Periodical Review process underway and for them to acknowledge the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur, and allow him access to the country. We actively supported the renewal of his mandate at the last Human Rights Council in April 2009.

We believe that the Universal Periodic Review and the Special Rapporteur mechanism remain the most effective way to seek to engage North Korea on their human rights records, rather than a commission of inquiry.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that concerns over human rights violations in North Korea are reflected in the next EU Common Position on North Korea. [307784]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are not aware of any plans for the EU to adopt a new Common Position on North Korea. However, tackling North Korea's serious human rights abuses remain a top priority, as reflected in the EU East Asia Policy Guidelines which were agreed in 2005. The EU co-sponsors the human rights resolutions on North Korea at the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly. The EU also looks for every appropriate opportunity to engage North Korea practically on human rights.

Most recently the EU Troika raised their concerns during their visit to Pyongyang in October. The EU continues to work for reinstatement of the Human Rights Dialogue with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, suspended by the North Korean side in 2003.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that concerns over human rights violations in North Korea are raised in to bilateral *(a)* negotiations and *(b)* discussions with representatives of that country. [307785]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We remain concerned about the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and take every appropriate opportunity to raise human rights issues with DPRK representatives.

Most recently, we raised human rights with the North Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs during a visit to Pyongyang by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Asia Pacific Director in November 2009. We urged North Korea to restart its human rights dialogue with the EU and allow access for the UN Special Rapporteur on North Korea. Our embassy in Pyongyang also tries to engage practically where it can and this year provided assistance to a nursery, a hospital and an association for the disabled.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to draw attention to the human rights situation in North Korea in the United Nations. [308015]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK supported the resolution on Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) at the UN Human Rights Council in April 2009. As part of the EU, it co-sponsored the UNGA resolution in December to raise awareness of the human rights situation in DPRK and promote action. The UK played an active role in the UN's Universal Periodic Review of DPRK in December which offers an opportunity to increase practical engagement on human rights. As part of that review, the UK requested further information on a range of issues, including freedom of expression, religious freedoms and the death penalty. We have also urged the DPRK to allow the UN Special Rapporteur for the DPRK to visit the country and suggest technical assistance where needed.

Nosratollah Tajik

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions there have been between the US authorities and the *(a)* UK Mission in the United States and *(b)* Foreign and Commonwealth Office on their request for the extradition of Nosratollah Tajik; and if he will make a statement. [308279]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Officials have discussed the extradition of Mr. Nosratollah Tajik with US officials in London and Washington on a number of occasions.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions there have been between the government of Iran and the *(a)* UK Mission in Tehran and *(b)* Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the request made to the UK by the United States for the extradition of Nosratollah Tajik; and if he will make a statement. [308280]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Officials and Ministers have discussed the extradition of Nosratollah Tajik with Iranian officials and Ministers on many occasions since Mr. Tajik's arrest in 2006. Most recently the Iranian Foreign Minister raised this issue with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs during a telephone conversation on 1 November 2009. We have explained to the Iranian authorities that extradition is a judicial process over which the Foreign Secretary has no control.

Official Gifts: Pakistan

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what official gifts he and his predecessors have received from the President of Pakistan and Ministers in the Pakistani government in each year since 2001. [307735]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government has published annual lists of gifts given and received by Ministers in an official capacity valued at over £140 since 2001. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. The 2008-2009 list was published on 16 July 2009.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1036W, on the Olympic Games 2012, how many staff in his Department have responsibility for co-ordinating his Department's preparations for the games; and what the cost of their annual salaries was in 2008-09. [309242]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office created a new full-time position on 1 September 2008 to co-ordinate its work on London 2012. Two more staff joined the team in June 2009. The salary bill in financial year 2008-09 was £32,503.

Overseas Territories Consultative Council

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1036W, on the Overseas Territories Consultative Council, what the cost to the public purse was of hosting the meeting on 9 December 2009. [309051]

Chris Bryant: The Overseas Territories Consultative Council and Forum took place on 8 and 9 December 2009. The final costs are not yet available, but we estimate them to be under £35,000.

Palestinians: Territorial Waters

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice he has received on the legal status of territorial waters off Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [306793]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement 1995 provides that the territorial jurisdiction of the Palestinian Council (construed in the Agreement as meaning the Palestinian Authority) includes the territorial waters off Gaza, in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

The rules of customary international law regarding territorial waters are also applicable.

Pitcairn Islands: Literacy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on literacy rate among residents of the Pitcairn Islands. [309105]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold any statistical information on the literacy rate of the Pitcairn population.

Security

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK private military and security companies have been awarded contracts by his Department to carry out work in *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Iraq, *(c)* Sudan, *(d)* Israel, *(e)* Somalia, *(f)* Pakistan, *(g)* Colombia, *(h)* Ethiopia and (i) Eritrea in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008, (v) 2009 and (vi) future years; and what the monetary value is of each contract. [306913]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) currently has contracts with five UK based private security companies in Afghanistan and Iraq. Records of contracts held with UK based private security companies in Sudan, Israel, Somalia, Pakistan, Colombia, Ethiopia and Eritrea are held locally by our embassy or high commission in each respective country. These records could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The contract value for each individual contract in each year for both Afghanistan and Iraq could also be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, the value of each contract for the period detailed are as follows:

		£
Afghanistan		
January to December 2009	Mobile and static security	20,174,588
April 2008 to March 2009	Police mentors and advisers	317,530
January to December 2009	Primary healthcare	379,543
November 2008 to November 2009	Intelligence analysts	387,935
Iraq		
July 2008 to June 2009	Mobile security	26,164,981
July 2008 to June 2009	Static security	6,969,654
October 2008 to September 2009	Intelligence analysts	467,930
Afghanistan and Iraq[1]		
February 2009 to February 2010	Vehicle maintenance	706,245
April 2008 to March 2009	Overseas security managers	1,035,192

[1] Iraq and Afghanistan combined

In respect of the existing static and mobile security service contracts in Iraq, the FCO has recently retendered these contracts and now has a single new three year contract commencing late 2009/early 2010, which is valued at £61 million over the next three years.

In respect of static and mobile security services in Afghanistan, the retender of this contract is due for completion in the next month or so at which point the new details will be available.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* reports of human rights abuses have been received by his Department in relation to the activities of private military and security companies awarded contracts by his Department in each of the last five years. [307011]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have received no complaints and no reports about human rights abuses by private military and security companies in the execution of contracts awarded by the FCO in the last five years.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1154-5W, on Sri Lanka, when the next visit to Sri Lanka by a cross-party delegation of hon. Members sponsored by his Department will take place; and if he will make a statement. [308006]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are no plans at the present time for a visit by a cross-party delegation of MPs to Sri Lanka. The Government continues to maintain high level engagement with the Government of Sri Lanka through regular visits, meetings and telephone calls. Most recently the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Worcester (Mr. Foster) visited Sri Lanka in October 2009. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Bogollagama in the margins of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad in November 2009 to discuss the current humanitarian situation and progress on a political solution to the conflict in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the Sri Lankan Government's progress towards political reconciliation in the country since the end of the military conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in May 2009; and if he will make a statement. [307998]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: At the end of May the Sri Lankan President issued a joint statement with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recognising the need to work towards a lasting political solution. The UK has consistently maintained that one of the prerequisites for lasting peace in Sri Lanka is a political settlement that fully takes into account the legitimate grievances and aspirations of all communities. Presidential elections have now been announced for 26 January 2010.

Parliamentary elections in spring 2010 will be a further opportunity for the voice of Sri Lanka's communities to be heard. Free, fair and credible elections will allow Sri Lanka's communities to have their say in shaping the country's future. Adequate arrangements must be made to ensure that internally displaced persons can vote in upcoming elections.

It is important for all those who want to play a role in Sri Lanka's future to agree to an inclusive political solution that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary released a written ministerial statement on 15 December 2009, which gives a detailed assessment of the political situation in Sri Lanka. A link to the statement can be found at the following internet address:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/
cmhansrd/cm091215/wmstext/
91215m0003.htm#09121534000482

Sri Lanka: War Crimes

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the Sri Lankan Government's progress towards establishing an accountability mechanism for allegations of war crimes which took place during the military conflict in the north of the country; and if he will make a statement. [307996]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The EU has made clear its belief that accountability is integral to the process of reconciliation. We therefore welcome President Rajapakse's decision to appoint an independent committee to look into the incidents cited in the US State Department's report. We will continue to press the Government of Sri Lanka to live up to this and the earlier commitment made by President Rajapakse to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in May to take measures to address possible violations of international humanitarian law. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary released a written ministerial statement on 15 December 2009, which gives a detailed assessment of the political situation in Sri Lanka. A link to the statement can be found at the following internet address:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/
cmhansrd/cm091215/wmstext/
91215m0003.htm#09121534000482

Travel Information

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on the *(a)* Another side to paradise campaign, *(b)* Don't be a Dick campaign, *(c)* Don't miss out campaign and *(d)* each other campaign co-ordinated by his Department aimed at Britons travelling abroad in each year since 2001. [307750]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 68W

In addition to the information included in my previous answer, the cost of the Don't be a Dick campaign was approximately £38,000 in 2008-09 and approximately £11,800 in 2009-10.

UK China Task Force

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times the UK China Taskforce has met since August 2007; and if he will make a statement. [308007]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The China Task Force works to deepen relations, foster mutual understanding, and further co-operation between the UK and China. The taskforce has met five times since August 2007 when the Chancellor took over the chair.

War Crimes: Judiciary

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on extending the mandate of the international judges and prosecutors serving in the War Crimes Chamber of the State Court in Bosnia-Herzegovina; and if he will make a statement. [307109]

David Miliband: The Government believe that international judges and prosecutors serving in the War Crimes Chamber of the State Court in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) make an important contribution to the justice system in BiH, and to the ability of the country to meet its international obligations in respect of cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Despite repeated requests to do so from the High Representative and Steering Board of the Peace Implementation Council, the BiH authorities have failed to extend the mandate of these judges and prosecutors.

The Government therefore strongly support High Representative Inzko's 14 December 2009 decision to extend the mandate of international judges and prosecutors working in the war crimes department of the court of BiH.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of Morocco on the human rights situation in Western Sahara. [307760]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Mr. Taieb Fassi Fihri, on 11 December 2009 to discuss our concerns over the recent rise in tensions over Western Sahara and in particular the case of Aminatou Haidar. Officials from our embassy in Rabat, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and the UK's Mission to the UN have held similar discussions with their Moroccan counterparts.

During these discussions we have made it clear that we believe that Haidar's case should be resolved swiftly and fairly. We have also expressed our concern that recent events risk impeding the UN-led negotiation process on Western Sahara.

We continue to discuss a wide range of human rights and reform issues with Morocco both bilaterally and through the EU.

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise the human rights situation within Western Sahara at the next meeting of the UN Security Council. [307761]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans at this time to raise the issue of Western Sahara at the next meeting of the Security Council. In the negotiations on UN Security Council Resolution 1871, on the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara mandate, the UK inserted language calling on all parties to address the human dimension of the dispute.

The UN Secretary-General has issued a statement expressing his concern over recent developments and that both he and the UN are doing as much as possible to resolve matters. He has called upon the parties to work with Christopher Ross, UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, to resolve the situation.

The UK continues to fully support the efforts of the Secretary-General and Ambassador Ross to resolve the dispute over the territory of Western Sahara.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has issued guidance to local authorities on the sale by allotment holders in municipal allotments of their surplus produce. [308331]

Barbara Follett: The latest version of "Growing in the Community", the good practice guide for local authority allotment officers, was published by the Local Government Association in March 2008 and includes advice on the sale of produce.

Caravan Sites: Travelling People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden, of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 203W, on stop notices: travelling people, if he will change the stop notices rules to allow such notices to be levied against dwellings erected by travellers which are used as dwelling houses. [307008]

Mr. Malik: We have no plans to introduce such a change.

Common Land

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria are used to determine the designation of designated green space or common recreational area as a village green; and what information his Department holds on the number of areas registered [illegible] village greens. [307828]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

For land to be registered as town or village green under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006, the applicant must broadly demonstrate that the land in question was used by a significant number of the local inhabitants 'as of right' for lawful sports and pastimes for no less than 20 years. Where use 'as of right' has ceased, the application must be brought within a specified period. 'As of right' is an established legal principle which means without permission, force or secrecy.

Registers of town or village greens are held by local authorities. Research in the late 1980s reported 4,332 registered greens in England, and further research in 2005 suggested an increase of about 115 in the number of registered greens between 1993 and 2005. We therefore estimate the present total number of registered greens to be around 4,500.

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has allocated to each group in receipt of funding under the Prevent Partnership area-based grant in each local area since 2008. [307749]

Mr. Malik: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 19 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 509W.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary value of council tax receipts was in each Government office region in each year since 2006-07. [307880]

Barbara Follett: Details of the council tax collected in each Government Office region (in £ million) in England in each year since 2006-07 are given in the following table.

			£ million
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
North East	828	872	902
North West	2,349	2,475	2,570
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,668	1,755	1,835
East Midlands	1,575	1,653	1,738
West Midlands	1,813	1,918	1,996
East of England	2,345	2,484	2,613
London	2,888	3,051	3,171
South East	3,691	3,892	4,098
South West	2,158	2,274	2,395
England	19,315	20,374	21,319

The data are taken from the Quarterly Return of Council Tax and Non-domestic Rates (QRC4) returns completed annually by all billing authorities in England.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the *(a)* changing of council tax banding multipliers and *(b)* creation of new council tax bands would require (i) primary and (ii) secondary legislation. [307881]

Barbara Follett: Both the relative proportions between council tax valuation bands, and the number of bands, may be altered by order of the Secretary of State. Such an order must be laid before and approved by resolution of the House of Commons. The relevant provisions are sections 5(4) and 5 (4 A) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether re-banding of properties for the purpose of levying council tax would require a partial or full council tax revaluation. [307882]

Barbara Follett: The valuation bandings to which individual properties are assigned are, when necessary, changed by the Valuation Office Agency as part of its statutory duty to maintain accurate valuation lists. The allocation of properties to bands differing from those for which section 5 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides would not be practicable without a general revaluation.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department and its predecessor made of the merits of transferring responsibility for council tax collection to county councils in two-tier areas in the last 10 years. [308257]

Barbara Follett: No assessment has been made.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to amend the Local Government Act 2003 to allow *(a)* county councils and *(b)* waste disposal authorities to operate local council tax discounts. [308263]

Barbara Follett: The Government have no plans to allow county councils or waste disposal authorities to operate local council tax discounts.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what local council tax discounts are in operation under the Local Government Act 2003. [308264]

Barbara Follett: Details of the types of local council tax discount that were being awarded by billing authorities under the Local Government Act 2003 as at 8 October 2009, the latest date for which figures are available, are listed as follows. Authorities reported they were making local council tax discounts to either individuals or a particular class of taxpayer. The discounts shown may have been awarded by one or more authority.

Particular classes of taxpayer or property

Difficult to let properties

Occupied and unoccupied furnished properties that do not have the benefit of mains services including beach chalets

Pensioners

Properties affected by flooding and external environmental factors

Annexes that are not exempt and are part of the main residence

Properties that are no one person's sole or main residence where access is restricted

Taxpayers who can comply with the council's Mooring Policy

Those to whom, because they have been affected by the change in regulations since a discount was originally awarded, a discount has been awarded so as to not disadvantage them

Various classes of empty properties.

Other discretionary discounts based on individual cases

Hard to sell property

Hardship

New unfinished property

Problems with a chalk mine.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to local authorities on the maximum period of time after the issuing of a bill for council tax during which they may pursue payment of that bill. [308330]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government provides occasional advice through its council tax information letters, which are published on the Department's website. CTIL 1 dated 25 March 2004 provided advice on this issue and is available at the following link.

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctil/ctil1-04.pdf

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the number of instalments in which council tax may be collected. [308332]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government provides occasional advice through its council tax information letters, which are published on the Department's website. CTIL 10 dated 10 January 1997 provided advice on instalments and is available at the following link.

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctil/ctil10.pdf

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1389W, on council housing: finance, if he will place in the Library a copy of the data relating to the gross council tax receipts collected by each local authority in England in cash and real terms for 1997-98. [308384]

Barbara Follett: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table containing details of the gross council tax receipts collected by each local authority in England in 1997-98 in both cash and real terms.

The data are taken from the Quarterly Return of Council Tax and Non-domestic rates returns completed annually by all billing authorities in England and the real terms data are given at 2008-09 prices.

The data for 1997-98 contain information for a number of authorities that are no longer in existence and therefore the data are not strictly comparable with those for subsequent years.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities may levy credit card *(a)* fees and *(b)* surcharges on (i) council tax bills and (ii) parking fines paid by credit card. [308719]

Barbara Follett: The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) Regulations 2009 prescribes what information is required on, and with, the council tax demand notice (the bill). This does not include credit card *(a)* fees or *(b)* surcharges.

The Department for Transport's operational guidance, 'Operational Guidance to Local Authorities: Parking Policy and Enforcement', to local authorities in England on parking policy and enforcement was published in March 2008. The guidance is available to download at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/165240/244921/287508/468279/parkingenforcepolicy.pdf

Council Tax: Second Homes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on proposals to levy a higher rate of council tax on second homes under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [307840]

Barbara Follett: The Department has not received any formal representations on levying higher rates of council tax under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 ('the Act'). The Local Government Association, as selector, is considering proposals submitted under the Act and has received a proposal on this subject from Lewes district council and a proposal from Torridge district council. The Government are co-operating with the selector as it draws up a short-list for the Secretary of State to consider.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of dwellings have been assigned a *(a)* dwellinghouse code and *(b)* value significant code by the Valuation Office Agency. [307832]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 142W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 759W, on council tax: valuation, whether the addition of a greenhouse is considered by the Valuation Office Agency to be *(a)* a material increase and *(b)* value significant for the purpose of council tax valuation and revaluation. [308393]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to Lord Bates on 6 November 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 96W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what new files on council tax revaluation have been created by his Department since September 2007. [308998]

Barbara Follett: No new files on council tax revaluation have been created since September 2007.

Councillors: Allowances

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department collects data on spending on councillors' allowances from local spending reports. [309036]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not collect the information requested.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department spent on art works in the last 12 months. [308575]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government have not incurred expenditure on works of art in the last 12 months.

Works of art displayed in Eland House are from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. The most recent details of acquisitions made by the GAC were published on 5 October 2009 and are available on the GAC website:

http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/information/publications.asp

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307966]

Barbara Follett: The following table shows how many invoices and what the percentage of invoices have been paid within 10 days since October 2008.

Invoices paid within 10 days of receipt

	Number	Percentage
2008		
October	3,379	67.30
November	3,442	77.89
December	3,248	85.23
2009		
January	3,288	81.73
February	3,090	82.75
March	4,461	83.74
April	4,515	83.55
May	3,876	91.83
June	4,550	90.53
July	4,766	92.26
August	4,096	89.88
September	4,285	90.59
October	4,485	93.38
November	4,202	93.01

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) have to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much (i) his Department and its predecessor and (ii) each of its agencies and NDPBs have recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [309264]

Barbara Follett: Section 12 of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 provides that, if an acquiring authority, or any of their contractors, wilfully enter on and take possession of any of the land subject to compulsory purchase without complying with subsection (4) of section 11 (which requires compensation to be paid or the landowner to consent to entry), it has to pay the person in possession of that land £10 in addition to the amount of any damage done to the land by entering and taking possession (recoverable summarily as a civil debt).

Sections 226 to 235 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 give the Tenant Services Authority the power to impose penalties in the circumstances set out in section 227. None of these provisions has yet been brought into force.

Part 11 of the Planning Act 2008 gives the Secretary of State power, by regulations, to make provision for Community Infrastructure Levy. Section 218 provides that Community Infrastructure Levy regulations may include provision for the imposition of a penalty or surcharge. No regulations under Part 11 have yet been made.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307805]

Barbara Follett: Offences were in effect created by the Building and Approved Inspectors (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/1219) when taken in conjunction with section 35 of the Building Act 1984. The 2009 regulations amended the requirements in the Building Regulations 2000 (S.I. 2000/2531), in particular relating to matters concerning water. By virtue of section 35 of the Building Act, a person contravening any provision in building regulations (other than one designated as excluded) is liable on summary conviction to a fine.

No criminal offence was abolished since 1 May 2008.

Departmental Marketing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what rebranding of his Department has been undertaken since its creation; and what the cost to the public purse has been of that rebranding. [308422]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the information provided on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/foi/disclosure-log/disclosurelog2009/brandinglogodesign/

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department's special advisers have signed waivers under the European Working Time Directive. [308804]

Barbara Follett: Special advisers currently working in Communities and Local Government have signed waivers under the European Working Time Directive.

Departmental Procurement

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 18W, on departmental procurement, (1) how much was spent on *(a)* Euro RSCG London Ltd, *(b)* 7E Communications Ltd, *(c)* Band & Brown Communications Ltd, *(d)* Centair Communications Ltd., *(e)* Coaching Academy UK Limited, *(f)* Coullmedia, *(g)* Folio Creative Communication Ltd, *(h)* GFK NOP Ltd, *(i)* Media Moguls, *(j)* Modern Media Communications Ltd, *(k)* Neal Communication Agency Limited, *(l)* On Demand PR and Marketing and *(m)* Opinion Leader Research in 2008-09; and for what purpose such funds were spent in each case; [308434]

(2) how much was spent on *(a)* 11 King's Bench Walk Chambers, *(b)* DLA Piper UK LLP and *(c)* Holden McAllister Ltd in 2008-09; and for what purpose such funds were spent in each case; [308435]

(3) how much was spent on *(a)* Al-Mahdi Institute, *(b)* Arab British Holding Group and *(c)* Exports Credit Guarantee Department in 2008-09; and for what purpose such funds were spent in each case; [308436]

(4) how much was spent on *(a)* HMS President, *(b)* Gordon Engraving, *(c)* London Zoo and *(d)* Tummy Time in 2008-09; and for what purpose such funds were spent in each case; [308437]

(5) how much was spent on Connect Public Affairs Ltd. in 2008-09; and for what purpose such funds were spent in each case; [308438]

(6) how much was spent on *(a)* Gonville Hotels Ltd., *(b)* Grand Hotel, *(c)* Grand Hotel Union DD, *(d)* Grange Hotels, *(e)* Grange Wellington Hotel, *(f)* Grosvenor Victoria Hotel Ltd., *(g)* Harts Head Hotel, *(h)* Hilton Hotel—Bromsgrove, *(i)* Hilton Brighton Metropole, *(j)* Hilton Manchester Deansgate and *(k)* each of the Holiday Inn entries listed in 2008-09; and for what purpose such funds were spent in each case; [308439]

(7) how much was spent on *(a)* Bellhouse Hotel, *(b)* Bewleys Hotel, *(c)* Birnbeck Hotel Ltd., *(d)* Boxmoor Lodge Hotel, *(e)* Brooklands Hotel, *(f)* Burlington Hotel, *(g)* Cairn Hotel, *(h)* Campanile Hotel, *(i)* Carrington House Hotel, *(j)* Cedar Court Hotel Bradford, *(k)* Cedar Court Hotel Harrogate, *(l)* Charing Cross Hotel, *(m)* County Hotel, *(n)* Crowne Plaza London Docklands, *(o)* Crowne Plaza London St. James, *(p)* Crowne Plaza Nottingham, *(q)* De Vere Daresbury Park Hotel, *(r)* De Vere Royal Bath Hotel, *(s)* De Vere Wychwood Park Ltd., *(t)* Donnington Manor Hotel, *(u)* Expotel Hotel Reservations Ltd. and *(v)* The Jurys Inn Brighton in 2008-09; and for what purpose such funds were spent in each case; [308440]

(8) how much was spent on *(a)* Digby Trout Restaurants, *(b)* Fancy A Pint Ltd., *(c)* Flavour of Hockley, *(d)* Il Cappuccino London Ltd., *(e)* Leith's, *(f)* Leiths at the EICC, *(g)* Majestic Wine Warehouse Ltd., *(h)* Oddbins of Wimbledon and *(i)* Posh Nosh (East Midlands) Ltd. in 2008-09; and for what purpose such funds were spent in each case; [308441]

(9) how much was spent on *(a)* Hotel Maison Rouge, *(b)* Jolly Hotel St Ermin's, *(c)* Jurys Inn Birmingham, *(d)* Jurys Inn Manchester, *(e)* Kings Arm Hotel, *(f)* Lancaster Landmark Hotel Co Ltd, *(g)* London Marriott Hotel Kensington, *(h)* Malmaison Hotel, *(i)* Mandalay Hotel, *(j)* Manor Hotel, *(k)* Marriot Hotel Gosforth Park, *(l)* Mercure Southgate Hotels Ltd, *(m)* Newcastle Marriott Hotel Metro Centre and *(n)* Norton Park Hotel Ltd in 2008-09; and for what purpose such funds were spent in each case; [308442]

(10) how much was spent on *(a)* Sea Hotel, *(b)* Stoney Croft Hotel, *(c)* Sunderland Marriott Hotel, *(d)* Thistle Hotel Brighton, *(e)* Thistle Hotel London Tower, *(f)* Thistle Hotel Westminster, *(g)* Village Hotel and Leisure Club and *(h)* Angel and Royal Hotel in 2008-09; and for what purpose such funds were spent in each case; [308443]

(11) how much was spent on *(a)* Old Ship Hotel (Brighton) Ltd, *(b)* Oxford Spires Four Pillars Hotel, *(c)* Paramount Cheltenham Park Hotel, *(d)* Park Lane Hotel Ltd, *(e)* Prince of Wales Hotel, *(f)* Quality Hotel Westminster, *(g)* Queens Hotel Brighton, *(h)*

Queens Hotel Leeds, *(i)* Radisson Edwardian Kenilworth Hotel, *(j)* Radisson SAS Hotel, *(k)* Ramada Birmingham City Centre, *(l)* Ramada Jarvis Brighton, *(m)* Renaissance Heathrow Hotel, *(n)* Riverbank Park Plaza Hotel Ltd, *(o)* Royal Horseguards Hotel, *(p)* Royal York Hotel and *(q)* Rubens at the Palace Hotel in 2008-09; and for what purpose such funds were spent in each case. [308444]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 16 December, *Official Report*, column 1266W.

Details on the purpose of the expenditure are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid to each supplier of goods or services to his Department in 2008-09. [308768]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1266W.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for future financial allocations to *(a)* the Private Sector Renewal Fund, *(b)* Growth Point Funding, *(c)* the Decent Homes regeneration budget and *(d)* his Department's contribution to the regional development agencies. [306881]

Mr. Ian Austin: Allocations and contributions to each of these funding streams will be subject to decisions in the next Comprehensive Spending Review.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of his Department's *(a)* programmes and *(b)* projects have had their spending brought forward from one year to an earlier year; how much spending has been brought forward in each case; and what effect the bringing forward of expenditure has had on budgets for later years. [307070]

Barbara Follett: The Department's Annual Report 2009 (pp 158-9) presents changes to planned expenditure and impact on budgets, including spending brought forward as part of the September 2008 housing package and pre-Budget report 2008. Since publication, £135 million capital expenditure (as part of the £1.5 billion Housing Pledge announced in 'Building Britain's Future') and £50 million Working Neighbourhood Funding has been brought forward from 2010-11 to 2009-10.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 519-20W, on departmental public expenditure, which of his Department's capital programmes are expected to underspend their funding allocation for 2009-10. [308019]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government continues to monitor its capital programmes to identify any potential underspends for transfer to the £1.5 billion housing pledge announced in "Building Britain's Future". Final levels of capital underspends across the Department's programmes will be determined at the end of the financial year.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which programmes in his Department were underspent in 2008-09; and by how much in each case. [308344]

Barbara Follett: Programme underspends are published at estimates line level in Note 2 "Analysis of Net Resource Outturn by Section" of our Resource Accounts:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/resourceaccounts0809

Lower level analysis would be at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the (i) subject and (ii) location of each away day was. [308673]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold information centrally on away days for its officials or those of its Executive Agencies. Away days are approved by Deputy Directors and above in accordance with Departmental procedures and guidance and the associated costs have to be met from within agreed budgets for general administrative expenditure. Unfortunately, there would be a disproportionate cost in obtaining detailed information from local line managers.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest timetable is for completion of the proposed eco-town developments. [308063]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 902W.

Fire Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions fire and rescue authorities have been unable to cope with a major fire or incident since 1979; and which fire control room was involved in each case. [307194]

Mr. Malik: The Fire and Rescue Service provide an effective and professional response to the incidents they face, making the best possible use of the equipment and technology available to them at any given point. The Fire and Resilience programme will deliver greater capability, resilience and inter-operability to the Fire and Rescue Service to equip them to meet the challenges they face now and in the future.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the New Dimension programme; and what budget was set for that programme at its inception. [307847]

Mr. Malik: CLG's New Dimension project (formerly a programme) was established in 2001 to enhance the capability of the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) to respond to major incidents whether caused by terrorist attacks or natural disasters. The estimated budget for the project at that initial stage was £318 million to procure, deliver and implement these new resilience capabilities within the FRS. This did not include ongoing resource costs to the FRS to support the continuing delivery of these capabilities which have already responded to several national events such as the Buncefield oil depot fire in 2005, the widespread 2007 floods and more recently the Cumbrian floods, as well as being mobilised around 200 times each quarter to local events.

At the end of financial year 2008-09, the Department had invested a total of £425 million in the New Dimension project, although owing to a difference in view over the accounting used, the National Audit Office estimated costs as some £30 million lower, in its value for money review in 2008.

The overall £425 million cost includes an amount of continuation funding for FRSs including crewing costs which over recent years has amounted to around £14-£15 million per annum.

In 2008, Ministers announced a funding package totalling £80million over the current spending review period to enable the ongoing delivery of New Dimension capabilities by the FRS. The total New Dimension costs up until 2008-09 include nearly £24 million of this amount, with a further £56 million allocated until the end of 2010-11.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will publish an updated *(a)* national and *(b)* regional business case for the FiReControl project. [308540]

Mr. Malik: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 899W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the location was of each local FiReControl emergency control room prior to the implementation of the FiReControl project; and how many staff work in each such control room. [309032]

Mr. Malik: The control room location information is held by each Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) individually; responsibility for current staffing figures also rests with the FRAs. The latest information provided to the department by the FRAs is published in full on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/frsoperationalstats2008-09

Fire Services: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to Lord Hanningfield of 18 December 2007, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 117WA, and to the answer to the hon. Member for Copeland (Mr. Reed) of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 764W, on fire services: finance, what his most recent estimate is of the total cost to the public purse of regional fire control rooms over 15 years; and on what estimate of the time taken to implement the FiReControl project the estimated cost of £420 million was based. [307851]

Mr. Malik: Our most recent estimates of the cost over the 15 year period are set out in the FiReControl Business Case published on 6 May 2009.

Under current planning assumptions the first regional fire control centres are expected to become operational in spring 2011 and the last Fire and Rescue Service will switch over by the end of 2012.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments have been made to EADS in respect of the FiReControl project; and what estimate has been made of the monetary value of such payments at the end of the relevant contracts. [308539]

Mr. Malik: In line with the contract, to date we have paid EADS £33 million. The total value of the contract is £200 million.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the FiReControl project; and what the estimated *(a)* gross and *(b)* net cost of that project is in each of the next five years. [308716]

Mr. Malik: The expenditure to date on the project is approximately £190 million. The estimated remaining FiReControl implementation project cost is about £230 million. Beyond implementation Communities and Local Government has also committed to support any Fire and Rescue Authority for whom operating costs are forecast to increase under the new networked control arrangements. The current estimate for this is £8.2 million each year.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 20 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 811W, on fire services, if he will publish an updated estimated gross total cost of the FiReControl project. [308985]

Mr. Malik: The estimated total cost of implementing the FiReControl project is £420 million.

Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been issued by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Firebuy and *(c)* the Fire Service College on actions which contingency staff are permitted to take in circumstances in which fire services are affected by industrial action to train on fire appliances currently used by fire-fighters. [307839]

Mr. Malik: No advice has been issued by my Department, Firebuy, or the Fire Service College, on the circumstances in which contingency staff are permitted to train on fire appliances or cross picket lines when a fire and rescue service is affected by industrial action. The provision of emergency fire cover during disputes is the responsibility of fire and rescue services, and it is for them to ensure any staff they commission directly or indirectly have received the necessary training and guidance.

Fires: Smoking

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department's fire research programme has undertaken research into *(a)* the effects of the ban on smoking in public places on the incidence of smoking-related domestic fires and *(b)* the proportion of domestic fires which occur as a result of smoking in the home since 2007. [308429]

Mr. Malik: No research has been carried out from the Department's fire and resilience research programme into *(a)* the effects of the ban on smoking in public places on the incidence of smoking related domestic fires or *(b)* the proportion of domestic fires which occur as a result of smoking in the home since 2007.

However, Fire and Rescue Services record details of incidents attended and the proportion of domestic fires which occur as a result of smoking in the home since 2007 are shown in the table.

Accidental dwelling fires, England, 2007 and 2008[1]

		Percentage
Source of ignition	*2007*	*2008*[1]
Smokers' materials	6.7	5.9
Cigarette lighters	1.2	0.7
Matches	0.7	0.6
Total number	34,960	32,872

[1] Provisional. Data for total dwelling fires 2008 are provisional and subject to change.

Source:

Fire Incident Records database, Communities and Local Government

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent assessment is of progress in the implementation of recommendation 38 of the Pitt Report on flooding in respect of the number of mutual aid agreements with local authorities; and what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of such agreements. [306811]

Ms Butler: I have been asked to reply to the hon. Member's question as the Cabinet Office published the 'Mutual Aid—A short guide for local authorities' guidance.

Progress on local implementation of the Pitt recommendations is included in the progress report on the Government's response to the Pitt review which was published on 15 December by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309062]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold this information centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Planning Inspectorate does not hold this information centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Service college have supplied the following details:

	Number of room nights
2007	261
2008	792
2009	681

The FSC does not incur a fee with a third party agent.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre has estimated the following figures:

	Number of room nights
2007	84
2008	50
2009	85

QEIICC does not pay an agency to book hotel accommodation.

Local Development Frameworks

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account the Infrastructure Planning Commission will take of a local development framework in considering a planning application. [307848]

John Healey: The Infrastructure Planning Commission will determine applications in accordance with any relevant national policy statement but they must also have regard to any local impact report submitted by a relevant local authority, any prescribed matters and any other matters that they think are both important and relevant to their decision. The local development framework will often be an important and relevant consideration.

Local Government Employers

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding was provided from the public purse to *(a)* Local Government Employers, *(b)* the Improvement and Development Agency and *(c)* LACORS in the last 12 months. [308343]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government provided the following funding in the last financial year (2008-09):

	Funding (£ million)
Local Government Employers	4.056
Improvement & Development Agency	32.480
Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services	2.08

The Department does not hold information about other funding which these bodies receive. Other Government Departments may provide funding for specific activities.

Local Government Executive

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a timetable has been set for bringing forward proposals for rules relating to the terms of office of office-holders in the indirectly-elected leader and cabinet executive model of local government referred to in his Department's White Paper on Communities in Control. [308299]

Barbara Follett: The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 makes provision for the rules relating to the terms of office of the leader in the indirectly-elected leader and cabinet executive model, and we have no plans to amend this.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of local spending by public bodies which is controlled by local authorities. [308268]

Barbara Follett: No estimate has been made.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms his Department plans to put in place for the purposes of meeting its targets relating to the implementation of participatory budgeting in local authority areas by 2012; and whether he plans to require local authorities to implement participatory budgeting. [308272]

Barbara Follett: The Government published its National Strategy on participatory budgeting in 2008. This set out the support available to councils, communities and their partners to help them promote and deliver participatory budgeting. The Government funds the Participatory Budgeting Unit (PBU), a project of the third sector organisation 'Church Action on Poverty', as a key delivery partner. The PBU helps to promote participatory budgeting and advises community development workers and local authority officials on the development of new projects.

There are no plans to 'require' local authorities to introduce participatory budgeting schemes.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has made an estimate of the level of expenditure by local authorities on litigation relating to the implementation of conditional fee agreements. [308537]

Barbara Follett: This information is not collected by the Department.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of local authorities whose expenditure on free bus travel has exceeded the value of central Government funding for such travel. [308591]

Barbara Follett: None, since it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided to each authority for concessionary travel.

Government funding for concessionary travel currently comes from two sources: formula grant and special grant.

Formula grant, which comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula police grant where appropriate, is largely distributed using the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the authority, together with the number of band D equivalent properties within the authority's area. We apply the same formula to all authorities that provide the same services and we also use the best data that are available on a consistent basis across all authorities. We then ensure that every authority receives at least a minimum percentage increase year-on-year (the 'floor') on a like-for-like basis i.e. after adjusting for changes in funding and function. In order to pay for the cost of the floor, we scale back the increase above the floor for all other authorities.

Within formula grant, there is no specific formula for concessionary fares. It is an unhypothecated block grant i.e. authorities are free to spend the money on any service, provided they meet their statutory duties. For this reason, and due to the method of calculating formula grant, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for any particular service.

From 2008-09, following the change to national free travel for concessionaires, concessionary travel authorities additionally receive a share of the £212 million concessionary fares special grant from the Department for Transport.

Local Government Finance: East Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding from *(a)* revenue support, *(b)* capital grant and *(c)* supported borrowing was provided by central Government to (i) East Sussex County Council, (ii) Lewes District Council and (iii) Wealden District Council in (A) 2007-08 and (B) 2008-09. [308455]

Barbara Follett: The following table provides the amount of formula grant, which is made up of Revenue Support Grant and redistributed business rates for non-police authorities, for each of the authorities requested. Formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant. This means that authorities are free to spend the money on any service provided that they meet their statutory duties.

	Local authority	*Prior years adjusted formula grant (£ million)*	*Current year's formula grant (£ million)*	*Change (£ million)*	*Percentage change*
2007-08	East Sussex	79,411	81.555	2,144	2.7
2008-09	County Council	91,026	93,781	2,755	3.0
2007-08	Lewes District	5,755	6,092	0,337	5.9
2008-09	Council	6,141	6,228	0,087	1.4
2007-08	Wealden District	7,593	7,822	0,228	3.0
2008-09	Council	7,895	7,974	0,079	1.0

Information on the provision of capital grants is not held centrally.

Supported borrowing or Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue) is supported through formula grant. Since formula grant is an unhypothecated block grant, and due to the calculations of formula grant, particularly floor damping, it is not possible to say how much grant has been provided for the support of capital expenditure.

Local Government: Bank Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of the deposits of each local authority in Icelandic banks have been refunded; when he expects further such repayments to be made; and what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of *(a)* deposits that will not be refunded and *(b)* interest on such deposits. [308590]

Barbara Follett: The Resolution Committee for Landsbanki and Glitnir and the UK administrators of Heritable and Kaupthing, Singer and Friedland Ltd. have published information on likely rates of return and when they expect repayments to be made. Local authorities are in direct contact with these administrators. Reports suggest that the second tranche of repayments for Heritable and Kaupthing, Singer and Friedland Ltd. were made in December 2009.

Local Government: Broadcasting

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department issues guidance to local authorities on funding for their own television *(a)* channels and *(b)* programmes. [308619]

Barbara Follett: There is no guidance issued to local authorities by my Department for these purposes.

Local Government: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the level of *(a)* salary, *(b)* car mileage allowance and *(c)* other allowances of the (i) chief executive, (ii) assistant chief executives and (iii) deputy chief executives of each county council in the North West. [308994]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally.

Local Government: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what mechanisms local authorities approve the salary awarded to their chief executives. [307844]

Barbara Follett: The pay of local authority chief executives is a matter for each local authority as the employer. The local authority can have regard to guidance issued by the Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Authority Chief Executives: 'National Salary Framework and Conditions of Service Handbook, September 2009'.

Local Government: Pensions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of the Local Government Pension Scheme. [308426]

Barbara Follett: The Government will continue to ensure that the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales remains affordable, viable and fair to taxpayers while providing decent pensions for its members. Working closely with all scheme stakeholders, we will be taking forward the announcement made in the pre-Budget report about the savings to be made by public service pension schemes, including the LGPS, from 2012-13 onwards.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of employers' contributions to the Local Government Pension scheme in each year since 1997-98. [308594]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is shown in the following table. These figures represent the actual amount of contributions paid by employers participating in the Local Government Pension scheme based on the Local Government Pension Fund (SF3) annual returns submitted to Communities and Local Government by scheme administering authorities in England.

	England (£ million)
1997-98	1,520
1998-99	1,788
1999-2000	1,972
2000-01	2,273
2001-02	2,617
2002-03	2,916
2003-04	3,217
2004-05	3,544

	England (£ million)
2005-06	4,124
2006-07	4,626
2007-08	5,009
2008-09	5,400

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* items of statistical data and *(b)* regular reports local authority pension funds provide to his Department. [308599]

Barbara Follett: A copy of the local government pension fund (SF3) annual return (and its associated guidance notes) that is used to collect statistical data from Local Government Pension scheme administering authorities can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localregional/localgovernmentfinance/statistics/usefilinformation/formstimetable/otherforms/

Local Government Pension scheme administering authorities are required under the scheme's regulations to submit to the Secretary of State copies of their statement of investment principles, governance compliance statements and triennial fund valuation reports. On a voluntary basis, pension fund annual reports and funding strategy statements are also submitted to the Department.

Local Government: Publicity

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department collects information from local spending reports on expenditure by local authorities on publicity for their services. [308432]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mayors

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to implement the proposal in his Department's Communities in Control White Paper on reducing the *(a)* petition threshold for mayoral referendums to two per cent. and *(b)* time between referendums from 10 to four years. [308298]

Barbara Follett: The Government's Communities in Control White Paper proposed that a consultation should be held on reducing the petition threshold for mayoral referendums—perhaps to 2, 3 or 4 per cent. Our consultation paper "Changing Council Governance Arrangements, Mayors and Indirectly Elected Leaders" invited comments on these proposals by March 2009, and also sought views on the proposal to reduce the time between referendums from 10 to four years where the first one had resulted in no change to governance arrangements. Responses to the consultation showed little support for any of these changes and, having carefully considered all of the comments received, we will be publishing our formal response.

National Policy Statements

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable has been set for the publication of National Policy Statements in their final versions. [308999]

John Healey: The timetable for publication of draft and final National Policy Statements is set out in the Route Map for implementation of the Infrastructure Planning Commission regime. An updated Route Map was published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website on 15 December. A copy is available in the Library.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of eligible businesses of each rateable value he expects to claim small business rate relief in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [307908]

Barbara Follett: Local authorities reported there were 392,000 businesses in England in receipt of small business rate relief (SBRR) as at 31 December 2006, the only year for which this information is currently available. A recent estimate of the take-up of small business rate relief based on this information is available on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/smallbusinessmethod

We estimate that around 575,000 small businesses are eligible for SBRR and that 68 per cent. of these (392,000) were claiming SBRR on 31 December 2006. We further estimate that about 92 per cent. of the total relief that would be granted if all 575,000 businesses claimed it was actually paid out in 2008-09.

Information on the number of businesses expected to claim small business rate relief in 2009-10 and 2010-11 is not currently available. Data on the rateable value of businesses claiming small business rate relief are not collected by local authorities.

Relief granted to small businesses has been increasing since SBRR was introduced—from £202 million in 2005-06 to £298 million in 2008-09. This represents a real terms increase of 34 per cent.

We agree that it is important to make it as easy as possible for eligible small businesses to access the relief. We took action in 2008 to remove the requirement for claimants to re-apply each year, so that a small business only has to apply once in each revaluation period. On 18 September 2009 we announced that we would remove the requirement to re-apply for SBRR at revaluation in 2010, a move which has been welcomed by the FSB. The legislation to remove the requirement is contained in the Non-Domestic Rating (Small Business Rate Relief) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2009 which was laid before the House on 9 December.

We understand concerns to ensure that every eligible small business receives the relief by making it wholly automatic, with no requirement to fill in an application form. Unfortunately neither we nor local authorities hold the necessary data to determine which ratepayers are eligible. Automating SBRR would require us to change the eligibility criteria—meaning that large chains could benefit, and that the supplement paid by other businesses to fund the relief would increase.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 283W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, how many hereditaments in each billing authority or closest administrative unit there are in each special category code on the draft 2010 Rating List. [308020]

Barbara Follett: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the number of hereditaments for England broken down by the full alphanumeric special category code and billing authority on the draft 2010 Rating Lists as at 2 November 2009. These data are consistent with the statistical release titled: "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists—England and Wales" published on 18 December 2009. A copy of this statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

The number of hereditaments in each special category code has been rounded to the nearest 10.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Ratepayers occupying over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the cost of transitional relief in the *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2010 business rate revaluations is not being met from the public purse. [307836]

Barbara Follett: We are required by section 57A of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 to have the objective of funding the cost of transitional relief from other ratepayers and not from the public purse.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intends to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the net cost to the public purse after the application of downward phasing was of providing transitional relief in respect of business rate revaluation in each year of the 2005 to 2010 rating cycle. [307837]

Barbara Follett: The net transitional relief for each year of the 2005 and 2010 cycle is presented in the following table. These figures are for the local list only.

	Net transitional relief (£ million)
2005-06	-870
2006-07	-353
2007-08	-138
2008-09	-66
2009-10	17

These figures have been taken from national non domestic rates returns. These do not include adjustments made with respect to previous years.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the take-up rate of the 2009 business rate deferral scheme in respect of the *(a)* five per cent. rise in business rates in April 2009 and *(b)* end of the 2005 rating cycle transitional relief. [307838]

Barbara Follett: The impact assessment to accompany the Non-Domestic Rating (Deferred Payments) (England) Regulations estimated that between 50 per cent. and 90 per cent. of businesses will choose to defer increases in their rates bills in 2009-10. No estimate has been made of breakdown between those deferring due to the RPI adjustment and those deferring due to the ending of the 2005 transitional relief scheme.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much and what proportion of gross revenue from non-domestic rates was not redistributed to local authorities in each year since 1997-98. [307846]

Barbara Follett: All gross revenue from non-domestic rates is redistributed to local authorities but not necessarily in the year in which they are collected.

Each year, the Government estimate how much will be redistributed from the pool in the forthcoming year, based on the amount likely to be paid into it and the difference in previous years between the amounts payable to the pool and the amounts paid from it. This is known as the distributable amount and is fixed before the relevant financial year begins. For this reason it is not possible to make a meaningful comparison between what eventually goes into the pool and what is then redistributed from it in any one year.

Information on non-domestic rate yields and the distributable amount are given in Tables 2.3 (d and l) of Local Government Financial Statistics England No 19 2009.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 281-83W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, how many hereditaments on the 1995 Rating List were in each special category code in 1997. [308021]

Barbara Follett: The available information requested has been deposited in the Library and relates to information contained in the 1995 Rating List as at 1 April 1997. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. The table is based on SCAT codes applicable at the time. The use of SCAT codes for some categories has changed since 1997.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Statement of Lord McKenzie of 14 October 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 298, on non-domestic rating regulations, if he will place in the Library a copy of the correspondence between his Department and the Inspector General of the Insolvency Service. [308648]

Barbara Follett: A copy of the correspondence was placed in the House Library in February 2009 accompanying a letter dated 10 February from the then Minister for Local Government, my right hon. Friend the Member for Wentworth (John Healey) and my right hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the hon. Member for Sevenoaks (Mr. Fallon), the Chairman of the Treasury Sub-Committee.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated *(a)* maximum and *(b)* average value of small business rate relief, in cash terms is for (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11, including the value of the small business multiplier. [308715]

Barbara Follett: Details of the maximum value of small business rate relief, in cash terms for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown in the following tables.

Maximum value of small business rate relief

			£
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
England (excluding City of London)	1,165.00	1,222.50	1,263.00
City of London	1,175.00	1,232.50	n/a

n/a = not available

Small business rate multiplier

			Pence
	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
England (excluding City of London)	45.8	48.1	40.7
City of London	46.2	48.5	n/a

n/a = not available.

No estimate has been made of the average value of small business rate relief.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has plans to *(a)* make or *(b)* lay before Parliament in draft further statutory instruments relating to business rates in the next six months. [309003]

Barbara Follett: The following table provides details of the amendments to statutory instruments in relation to business rates that my Department intends to make over the next six months.

	Purpose
Ongoing business rates system	
Demand notices	To allow for changes to the information provided with rates bills to reflect the revaluation 2010.
Empty property rates	To allow for the extension in the empty property rate relief threshold for 2010-11.
Court fees	To allow billing authorities to recover the cost of higher court fees and associated administrative expenses from council tax and business rates debtors.
Business rates supplement (BRS)	
Cost of collection	To allow levying authorities an allowance for costs of collecting a BRS.
Demand notices	To allow for changes to the information provided with rates bills to reflect a BRS.
Collection and enforcements	To allow for the collection and enforcement of a BRS.
Admin and accountings	To allow for the administration and accounting of a BRS.
Ballots	To allow for a ballot to be held for certain BRS.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 131W, on non-domestic rates: empty property, if he will place in the Library a copy of the representations from the six trade bodies; and what the names are of the 349 groups making written representations, excluding any which have requested confidentiality. [308981]

Barbara Follett: The representations from the six trade bodies have been placed in the House Library. The names of other groups that made representations to my Department are:

Association of Convenience Stores;

Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation;

The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire;

Weymouth Chamber of Commerce;

Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce;

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

The names of private individuals who made representations are not being disclosed on data protection grounds.

Our reforms to empty property relief are principled and right for the long-term. They provide a strong incentive on owners to bring empty property back into use, helping to improve access to premises for businesses and so to exert a downward pressure on commercial rents.

However, we provided owners with real help to manage short-term pressures in a difficult property market by exempting all empty properties with rateable values up to £15,000 from business rates in 2009-10.

We have listened to the continued concerns of owners and are extending the temporary measure for a further 12 months—to cover the whole of 2010-11—and we are uprating the threshold to £18,000 in line with the general movement of property values at revaluation.

Non-Domestic Rates: Entertainments

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology is to be used by the Valuation Office Agency to value travelling funfairs and circuses for the purposes of the 2010 business rates revaluation. [308676]

Barbara Follett: Travelling funfairs and circuses do not, by their nature, occupy a permanent site for shows and will not, therefore, be valued for rating. The permanent occupiers of these sites may be liable to rates, e.g. as a car park and valued as such. Winter quarters, where there is a permanent retained occupation, will be liable to rates.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to Lord Bates of 12 November 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 208WA, on non-domestic rates: ports, how many hereditaments in ports are liable for backdated business rates following the implementation of the new arrangements; how many businesses have fully discharged their backdated liability; how many businesses have been granted a schedule of payments; and how many have received lower valuation consequent on a review of a valuation under the new arrangements. [308801]

Barbara Follett: As of 4 January 2010, there are 723 hereditaments within the 45 large, statutory, ports and container terminals in England with a liability for business rates backdated to 1 April 2005. 94 of these hereditaments have seen a change to their rateable value as a consequence of an appeal.

As at 8 October 2009, local authorities had reported that businesses occupying 221 properties within ports had fully discharged their backdated liability and that businesses occupying a further 200 business properties within ports had been granted a schedule of payments.

Properties located within the ports that satisfy the tests of rateability have always been subject to separate assessment—this is not a new regime. The purpose of the review of ports that has been carried out by the Valuation Office Agency is to ensure that all individual business properties within and outside ports are rated fairly in order to distribute the burden of contributions to local government equitably between businesses around the country.

The Government have listened to the concerns of businesses with significant and unexpected backdated bills, including those within ports. It has legislated to allow such bills to be repaid over an unprecedented eight year period rather than in a single instalment, to help affected businesses to manage the impact on their cash flows during the downturn by reducing the amount they are required to pay now by 87.5 per cent.

Non-Domestic Rates: Public Houses

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 75W, on non-domestic rates: public houses, whether an assessment has been made of the effect of the rates revaluation on *(a)* public houses and *(b)* post offices which have diversified. [308802]

Barbara Follett: No estimates of the likely bills after revaluation have been made for public houses or post offices which have been diversified. These will contain not only transitional relief, but also all other reliefs, some of which will be determined by the billing authority in question .

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring that the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made, other than by means of his Department's consultation on transitional relief, of the effects on businesses of the 2010 rating revaluation; and what estimate he has made of the likely level of non-payment of rates owing to business closures in 2010. [307883]

Barbara Follett: On 8 July 2009 my Department published Business Rates Information Letter number 10/2009 which contained information on the regional and sector impacts of the 2010 revaluation. On 17 November 2009 my Department published a final impact assessment on transitional arrangements scheme which included information about the impacts of the revaluation. And from 1 October 2009, ratepayers have been able to check their own new rateable value and check their new rates bill using the business rates calculator on the business link website.

We have made no estimate of the likely level of non-payment of rates in 2010 due to revaluation. The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

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Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* gross cost before and *(b)* net cost after the application of downward phasing of providing transitional relief in respect of business rate revaluation in each year of the 2010-15 rating cycle. [307884]

Barbara Follett: The following table shows the estimates of gross cost before and the net cost after the application of transition relief for each year of the 2010-15 cycle. The figures for the gross cost before the application of transition relief can be found on table 3 on Annex B of the "The transitional Arrangements for the Non-domestic Rating Revaluation 2010 in England" consultation document. The assumptions used for the purpose of this modelling are discussed in its Methodology annex. A copy of the consultation document is available at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovemment/nndrrevaluation2010

The figures have been rounded to the nearest £5 million. This is consistent to what was used in the consultation document.

£ million

	Gross cost before transition	*Net cost after transition*
2010-11	1,155	[1]—
2011-12	570	[1]—
2012-13	235	[1]—
2013-14	70	[1]—
2014-15	30	[1]—
Total	2,060	[1]—

[1] All these figures are non zero. When rounding to the nearest £5 million, they round to zero.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. That is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he expects the 2010 rates revaluation to be revenue-neutral across *(a)* the five year cycle and *(b)* in each year of that cycle. [307885]

Barbara Follett: For the 2010 revaluation the small business multiplier has been reduced to 40.7p to ensure that on 1 April 2010 (the first day of the 2010 rating list) the gross yield will be the same, in real terms, after allowing for future appeals, as the gross rates yield expected for 31 March 2010 (the last day of the 2005 rating list). Therefore, the process of introducing new rateable values on 1 April 2010 will be revenue neutral in real terms. Thereafter, the rates yield may vary in the normal way with, for instance, ongoing changes to the rating list.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Over a million properties will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government intend to put in place a £2 billion relief scheme to limit the impact on the minority with bill increases. This is on top of the wider support available to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which 50 individual hereditaments in the South East had the biggest percentage change in rateable value between the 2005 Rating List and the draft 2010 Rating List; what the *(a)* location and *(b)* local authority area is of each; and what the rateable value of each is on each list. [308624]

Barbara Follett: The following table shows the rateable value on the 2005 Rating List and the draft 2010 Rating List for the 50 individual hereditaments in the South East Government Office Region that had the biggest percentage increase between the two lists, as at 2 November 2009.

These data are consistent with the statistical release titled: "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Ratings Lists—England and Wales", published on 18 December 2009. A copy of the statistical release is available at the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

No address information other than postcode is held in the dataset used for the analysis. The address, 2005 list rateable value and 2010 draft list rateable value from the live database for each hereditament in the central and local rating lists are published on the Valuation Office Agency's website. This information is updated weekly.

http://www.voa.gov.uk

Rank	*Billing authority*	*Rateable value on the 2005 ratings list (£)*[1]	*Rateable value on the draft 2010 ratings list (£)*
1	Mid Sussex	Less than 500	17,000
2	Maidstone	Less than 500	1,000
3	Mole Valley	Less than 500	Less than 500
4	Canterbury	Less than 500	14,000
5	Eastleigh	Less than 500	3,000
6	Chichester	Less than 500	5,000
7	Milton Keynes	Less than 500	3,000
8	Tonbridge and Malling	1,000	12,000
9	Isle of Wight	Less than 500	1,000
10	Swale	1,000	13,000
11	Chichester	Less than 500	4,000
12	Oxford	1,000	11,000
13	West Oxfordshire	1,000	14,000
14	Winchester	1,000	10,000
15	Reading	6,000	76,000
16	Wealden	2,000	18,000
17	Tandridge	Less than 500	1,000
18	Eastbourne	2,000	20,000
19	Test Valley	1,000	6,000
20	Tunbridge Wells	1,000	16,000
21	Runnymede	24,000	252,000

Rank	Billing authority	Rateable value on the 2005 ratings list (£)[1]	Rateable value on the draft 2010 ratings list (£)
22	Dover	Less than 500	1,000
23	Arun	Less than 500	Less than 500
24	Rother	Less than 500	Less than 500
25	Isle of Wight	Less than 500	2,000
26	Test Valley	2,000	[illegible]
27	Thanet	Less than 500	1,000
28	Reading	6,000	54,000
29	Brighton and Hove	2,000	21,000
30	New Forest	1,000	11,000
31	Shepway	2,000	14,000
32	Slough	4,000	33,000
33	West Berkshire	2,000	12,000
34	Lewes	9,000	70,000
35	Slough	4,000	35,000
36	Hastings	6,000	44,000
37	Reigate and Banstead	5,000	40,000
38	Thanet	1,000	10,000
39	Isle of Wight	3,000	22,000
40	Cherwell	2,000	11,000
41	Chichester	Less than 500	2,000
42	Portsmouth	21,000	156,000
43	Tonbridge and Malling	18,000	131,000
44	Ashford	Less than 500	1,000
45	Adur	Less than 500	1,000
46	Adur	Less than 500	1,000
47	Adur	Less than 500	1,000
48	Adur	Less than 500	1,000
49	Adur	Less than 500	1,000
50	Adur	Less than 500	1,000

[1] The figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

The five-yearly business rates revaluations make sure each business pays its fair contribution and no more by ensuring the share of the national rates bill paid by any one business reflects changes over time in the value of their property relative to others. The 2010 revaluation will not raise a single extra penny for Government.

Ratepayers occupying over a million properties—60 per cent. of total properties—will see their business rate liabilities come down as a result of revaluation. The Government's £2 billion transitional relief scheme will limit the impact on the minority with bill increases, ensuring that in 2010-11 no small property will see an increase of more than 3.5 per cent. as a result of revaluation, with increases capped at 11 per cent. for larger properties. This is on top of the wider support available as part of Real Help Now to help ease business pressures including discounted rate bills for small businesses and deferring tax payments.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees of his Department and its agencies have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308508]

Barbara Follett: Less than five employees of Communities and Local Government have been convicted of a criminal offence in total since 1997. Publication of further details could breach our rules of confidentiality and are thus not provided.

Oneplace

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to his Department was of building the Oneplace web portal was; what budget he has allocated for the purpose of advertising the launch of Oneplace; and what estimate he has made of the cost of maintaining Oneplace in its first year of operation. [306384]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 5 January 2009:

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

The cost incurred by the Audit Commission of building the Oneplace web portal is £484,000. This includes an estimated £220,000 on design and consultation with members of the public to ensure that the site meets their needs. The Audit Commission has spent £9,000 advertising the launch of this new service. The cost of maintaining Oneplace in the first year of operation is estimated to be £120,000.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Parking

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of each research project commissioned by his Department on residential car parking in the last five years. [308267]

Barbara Follett: A copy of the report, 'Residential Car Parking Report', from 9 May 2007 has been deposited in the Library. The report is also available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/residentialcarparking

Parking: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1509W, on parking: fees and charges, how much revenue was raised by local authorities from on-street parking *(a)* penalty charge notices and *(b)* charges in each year since 1997-98. [308983]

Barbara Follett: The information on the revenue raised by local authorities in England on penalty charge notice income and other sales, fees and charges from on-street parking from 2005-06 is tabled as follows.

£ million

	Penalty charge notice income	Other sales, fees and charges
2005-06	275.7	286.4
2006-07	297.1	303.0
2007-08	333.5	332.7
2008-09	312.1	351.7

Information for earlier years is not available.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to allocate funding to local authorities in respect of their new duties consequent on the creation of the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [307841]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 476-77W.

Regeneration: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which regeneration schemes funded by his Department are delivered through the regional development agencies. [307834]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Communities and Local Government contributes funding to the Regional Development Agencies' Single Budget. However, it is the responsibility of individual RDA boards to determine how this resource is best utilised and which, if any, regeneration programmes are supported within each region.

Regional Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on elected regional government in England outside London. [308620]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have no plans to introduce elected regional government in England outside London.

Urban Areas: Regeneration

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to provide assistance to the accelerated development zones pilot schemes run by local authorities. [308596]

Barbara Follett: There are currently no active accelerated development zones pilot schemes. In December's pre-Budget report, the Government gave an update on work initiated in the April 2009 Budget, saying that it

"will continue to examine the framework that would be needed to implement tax increment financing and consider the primary legislation that would be needed if schemes were to be introduced".

"Accelerated Development Zones" are the geographical areas within which tax incremental financing, if introduced, would operate.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any local authorities have reported efficiencies relating to the introduction of wheeled refuse containers in their most recent annual efficiency report to his Department. [308600]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not collect information from councils on the value of efficiencies broken down by individual service sectors. Councils are required to report only the total net value of ongoing cash-releasing value for money gains that have impacted since the start of the 2008-09 financial year.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship vacancies have been *(a)* advertised and *(b)* filled through the National Apprenticeship Service online vacancy system in each month since it was established. [304160]

Kevin Brennan: The information is as follows:

(a) The following table gives the number of new apprenticeship vacancies advertised each month (rounded to the nearest 10):

	Number
December 2008	400
January 2009	1,090
February 2009	660
March 2009	990
April 2009	940
May 2009	970
June 2009	1,660
July 2009	1,640
August 2009	1,410
September 2009	3,670
October 2009	3,810

(b) The number of vacancies filled through the apprenticeship vacancies system each month since launch is as follows (rounded to the nearest 10):

	Number
April 2009	90
May 2009	50
June 2009	470
July 2009	470
August 2009	560
September 2009	630
October 2009	720

The figures provided above are the number of candidates who have been recorded as successful in securing an apprenticeship opportunity through apprenticeship vacancies online.

These figures will significantly underestimate the number of apprentices who found positions through apprenticeship vacancies online. This is because some of the advertisements, particularly for large employers, will lead candidates to the employer's own on-line vacancies and the recording of successful candidates through this route can take longer.

Apprentices: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many apprenticeships there were in Leeds in each year since 1997; [306592]

(2) how many apprenticeships there were in Leeds, West constituency in each year since 1997. [306587]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of apprenticeship starts are published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 22 October at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09/

Supplementary table 6.1 shows apprenticeship starts by region, local authority and parliamentary constituency from 2003/04, the earliest year for which we have comparable data.

Bankruptcy

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many bankruptcies of *(a)* individuals in each age group resident in and *(b)* businesses based in (i) Lewes constituency and (ii) East Sussex there have been in (A) 2008 and (B) 2009 to date. [308456]

Ian Lucas: Figures for bankrupts in East Sussex and Lewes constituency in 2008 are shown in table 1.

Table 1: Bankruptcies in 2008

	Age Group[1]						
Area[2]	*Under 25*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65+*	*Unknown*
East Sussex	26	146	194	152	64	36	79
Lewes	1	13	25	16	10	3	16

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid date of birth (93.4 per cent. in 2008).

[2] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (96.9 per cent. in 2008).

Self-employed traders may be declared bankrupt (or enter into an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA)), however, registered companies are the subject of liquidation (compulsory liquidation or creditors voluntary liquidation (CVL)).

Table 2 shows the number of self-employed traders who were declared bankrupt in 2008.

Table 2: Bankruptcies among sole traders in 2008

Area[1]	*Number*
East Sussex	138
Lewes	28

[1] Where the bankrupt has provided a valid postcode (96.9 per cent. in 2008).

Regional figures for 2009 are not currently available for bankruptcies, as they are compiled on an annual basis.

Statistics covering corporate insolvencies are not currently available at a sub-national level within England and Wales.

Business: Capital Investment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the level of investment by businesses has been in each of the last 10 years. [307341]

Ian Lucas: ONS statistics for the value and volume of business investment in the UK for each year between 1999 and 2008 are shown in the following table:

£ million

	Business investment at current prices	*Business investment volumes, 2005 prices*
1999	115,795	108,894
2000	118,917	113,725
2001	118,334	115,482
2002	118,172	116,825
2003	117,167	115,674
2004	117,736	117,047
2005[1]	122,405	122,405
2006	128,145	128,437
2007	143,097	143,664
2008	147,319	145,617

[1] The 2005 figures exclude the effects of the transfer of BNFL reactors from public corporations to Government in the second quarter of 2005.

Business: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage business investment in the West Midlands. [307312]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 December 2009]:* As part of its objectives to build a strong economy Government are providing a wide range of support to encourage business investment, both in the West Midlands and across the country as a whole.

In the PBR we announced our intention to continue to support business until recovery is secured. We are doing this through, for example, the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG) Scheme which has been extended by 12 months. In the West Midlands, as of 9 December, lenders have logged 681 eligible cases with a value of £68.49 million, of which, 643 EFG loans have been offered amounting to £64.41 million. So far 538 EFG loans have been drawn down with a value of £52.48 million. We also announced the extension of empty property relief for a further year, estimated to cover 76 per cent. of empty properties in the West Midlands.

We are also taking action to ensure the foundations for growth are in place as we emerge from the economic downturn. As a result of Government bringing forward capital expenditure, Advantage West Midlands (AWM) has been able to invest £11.2 million to allow early commencement of work to redevelop Birmingham New Street Station, creating up to 400 new jobs and £1.8 million to accelerate the redevelopment of the former MG Rover site at Longbridge Birmingham, enabling an early start to the relocation of Bourneville college, securing 250 construction jobs. Furthermore, 9 per cent. of orders under the vehicle scrappage scheme have been placed in the West Midlands, which is broadly in line with car ownership in the region.

On 10 November we launched Partnerships for Growth: A national framework for regional and local economic development, the objectives of which include raising the rate of sustainable economic growth, increasing employment and increasing the economic performance of all English regions. AWM is already contributing to this agenda through, for example, delivering over 12,805 Business Link Health Checks by the end of November 2009 and jointly investing £40 million with EMDA in the £130 million world-class Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC)—a world-class research organisation to support companies and their supply chains in improving their manufacturing competitiveness. It is also providing investment in low carbon technology through its £2.4 million support for the Low Carbon Vehicle Demonstrator project and its £19 million support for the Low Carbon Vehicle Technology Programme, to accelerate the introduction of the next generation ultra low vehicle carbon vehicle.

AWM provides a range of other measures to help business. It has, for example, between April and September 2009, made grants totalling £736,000 to 15 companies for research and development and grants totalling £3.8 million to 46 companies for business investment. Through its Advantage Transition Fund, which ended in November 2009, it has made loans of more than £10 million. Arrangements are now being put in place for a successor fund, as part of a £44.8 million business support fund which includes:

An Early Stage Equity fund of £8 million;

A Growth Equity fund of £9.2 million, matched by the same amount from the private sector, and;

A Mezzanine fund of £9.2 million, also matched by the private sector.

Last year AWM was involved in a record number of inward investment successes such as the expansion of Deutsche Bank, which now employs 500 people in the region. This year it has been involved in a further 21 projects creating 645 jobs, with others in the pipeline, which it is hoped will lead to over 900 further jobs.

UKTI in the West Midlands is supporting companies in a variety of ways to grow their businesses internationally. It has supported over 540 companies so far this year to increase their exports through a variety of supported programmes including Passport to Export, a scheme for novice exporters to help them to export strategically and Gateway to Global Growth, for companies with two to 10 years exporting experience. Using additional funding provided by Advantage West Midlands, UKTI has so far assisted 330 companies to increase exports, which has led to 45 jobs being created and 91 jobs safeguarded.

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307953]

Mr. McFadden: The following tables show (i) the volume of invoices received by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) since June 2009 and (ii) the percentage of invoices paid within 10 days by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and its predecessors the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) since November 2008.

Figures prior to June 2009 and November 2008 respectively are not available.

Month	*Volume of invoices received by BIS*
June 2009	3,048
July 2009	3,113
August 2009	2,468
September 2009	2,402
October 2009	2,674
November 2009	2,675

10 day payment	*Percentage*
BERR	
November 2008	93.10
December 2008	96.9
January 2009	96.7
February 2009	96.2
March 2009	97.02
April 2009	96.30
May 2009	89.7
DIUS	
November 2008	89.5
December 2008	96.0
January 2009	91.0
February 2009	96.0
March 2009	95.0
April 2009	76.0
May 2009	81.0
BIS	
June 2009	92.3
July 2009	94.9
August 2009	95.0
September 2009	95.5
October 2009	96.5
November 2009	94.8

Departmental Contracts

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Siemens or its subsidiaries since February 2009. [303765]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that the following contracts have been entered into with Siemens Enterprise Communications Ltd. since February 2009.

		£
March 2009	Specialist Call login Equipment	23,950
April 2009	ISO 27001 Certification and Support	86,500
July 2009	Photocopier provision	2,390

Departmental Publications

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer of 13 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 190-1W, on business: overseas trade, if he will place in the Library a copy of the 2009 study on its publication. [306915]

Ian Lucas: A hard copy of the 2009 study: "The Effect of Foreign Mergers and Acquisitions on UK Productivity and Employment" will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

A report of the study is already in the public domain and can be accessed at the following URL:

https://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/ukti/fileDownload/mergers.pdf?cid=438803

Departmental Reviews

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects the review of his Department's agencies to be published. [305345]

Mr. McFadden: BIS will review its partner organisations as part of the Government wide review of arm's length bodies announced by the Prime Minister in "Putting the Front Line First: smarter government". The result of the review will be published by Budget 2010.

EU Globalisation Fund

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many applications the UK has made to the EU Globalisation Adjustment Fund; how many *(a)* have been approved, *(b)* have been declined and *(c)* are outstanding; and what assessment he has made of the net cost or benefit to the UK of the Fund. [302844]

Angela Eagle: I will answer this question as responsibility for the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) falls to my Department.

On the first part of the question, the UK has not made any applications to the EGF. All current member state applications and their status can be viewed on the European Commission's EGF website at

http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=582&langId=en.

As part of the Government's response to the economic downturn, we have used the European Social Fund to the same effect as the EGF, investing in a combination of services that have proved to be effective in helping workers and areas affected by restructuring. The EGF cannot duplicate use of other European funding.

On the second part, approved applications to the Fund have to date been financed from in-year transfers from areas of expected low implementation within the EU Budget, at no immediate impact to member states contributions. Unspent funds in one year, however, are used to finance the following year, thus reducing the amount of funding required from member states in that year. The UK's share of financing applications approved so far in 2009 is abateable, and the net cost to the UK over the 2009 and 2010 period of these applications would be around £2.05 million.

As to the benefits, the Government will look positively at a specific case where it can be shown that the EGF would add value to national, regional or local measures and initiatives. In particular, it is important to marshal all resources available to help those struggling to find work so that they can move into jobs in growth sectors and be a part of the economic recovery.

Learning and Skills Council for England: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what payments the Learning and Skills Council has made to *(a)* Fishburn Hedges and *(b)* Weber Shandwick Public Affairs in each of the last three years; for what purposes; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [302299]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not hold this level of information. The Learning and Skills Council makes decisions about any work it contracts for specific projects based upon its own business needs. Geoff Russell, the Council's Acting Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with further information.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 8 December 2009:

I am writing in reply to your recent Parliamentary Question that you asked the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, on what payments the Learning and Skills Council has made to (a) Fishburn Hedges and (b) Weber Shandwick Public Affairs in each of the last three years; at what cost; and for what purpose.

I can confirm that:

Fishburn Hedges currently works on two specific projects for the Learning and Skills Council and that this is contracted via the Central Office of Information (COI) on:

Skills for Life: Get On. The campaign is designed to promote the importance of improving literacy and numeracy skills to adults.

Skills for employers: incorporating Train to Gain/Skills Pledge/National Skills Academy/Training Quality Standard: The campaign is designed to promote the skills offer to employers in a clear and concise manner:

Fishburn Hedges is not contracted to work directly for the Learning and Skills Council and any procured projects are managed through COI.

Fishburn Hedges has worked on Skills for Life: Get On, for the Learning and Skills Council via COI, since April 2008.

Fishburn Hedges has worked on the employer campaign for the Learning and Skills Council via COI, since July 2009.

The costs paid by the LSC via COI to Fishburn Hedges are as follows:

Skills for Life: April 2008 to March 2009—£378,583 ex VAT

Skills for Life: April 2009 to date—£151,086 ex VAT

Employers: July 2009 to date—£124,968 ex VAT

Weber Shandwick Public Affairs, in the past 3 years, has worked on one specific project for the Learning and Skills Council.

The LSC engaged Weber Shandwick Public Affairs to provide information to and on public affairs and media arenas in relation to the education and skills sector for the LSC's public affairs team. Weber Shandwick did not speak on behalf of the LSC or represent the organisation at events. Their contract concluded in April 2008 and the LSC no longer retains an agency for this purpose.

The total amount paid by the LSC to Weber Shandwick for the last 3 years was £44,255 ex VAT.

Weber Shandwick public relations team (i.e. not the Public Affairs team) was also appointed by the Learning and Skills Council via COI between February and November 2009 to secure the engagement of large employers in the direct delivery of Apprenticeships, Skills for Life and Train to Gain to meet targets set.

The total amount paid by the LSC via COI was £195,200 ex VAT.

Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the merits of extending the Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Advice and Trade Unions to include local government. [306732]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The Joint Statement on Access to Skills, Trade Unions and Advice in Government Contracting was launched out across the central Government Departments and executive agencies in July 2008.

It has always been the Government's aspiration to extend the Joint Statement to other parts of the public services, following evaluation of the impact in central Government and subject to further discussion on the detail of any possible implementation.

A six-month review was recently completed by the Joint Statement Review Steering Group and is available on the Cabinet Office website at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/274789/joint-statement-review.pdf

The review recorded good progress in implementation and signalled the steering group's support for local government to develop the principles of the Joint Statement in that sector. Local Government Employers have since expressed their support for further extension and are progressing the early stages of implementation through a series of discussion within the sector.

Office of Fair Trading: Internet

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what redesigns of websites operated by the Office of Fair Trading have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306213]

Mr. McFadden: The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is currently undertaking a redesign and restructure of its website. Research conducted on its primary target audience including businesses, corporate lawyers and local authority trading standards services, found that the current structure of the OFT website is not meeting their requirements. The project costs so far have been £28,000 for qualitative research, with a further £86,000 committed to conduct user journey testing and design development work. The project is due for completion by the end of March 2010.

A project is also under way on the Consumer Direct website (which is run by the OFT) which will enhance the functionality of the site and guide consumers more easily to the information they need by the provision of video help guides. The cost of the research so far has been £20,000 and the total projected project cost is £70,000. The project is due for completion by the end of March 2010.

Royal Mail: Disciplinary Proceedings

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many postal workers were disciplined for failing to attempt to deliver parcels and delivering 'sorry you were out' slips instead in each of the last three years; what discussions he has had with representatives of Royal Mail on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [308781]

Mr. McFadden: Disciplining of its staff by Royal Mail for any operational failings is a matter for the company's management. I have therefore asked the Chief Executive of Royal Mail, Adam Crozier, to provide the hon. Lady with a reply to her question.

A copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Trade Agreements: Colombia

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the negotiation of a free trade agreement between the EU and Colombia. [308969]

Ian Lucas: In recent months, this Department has received representations from industry, NGOs, unions, Members of the UK and European Parliaments, and members of the public on the EU-Andean nations multi-party free trade agreement negotiations. These representations have covered market access issues and the human rights situation in Colombia.

Colleagues in other Departments have been receiving similar representations.

UK Trade and Investment: Training

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) buildings attended by civil servants in UKTI there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307446]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) does not directly employ staff but draws on resource from its two parent Departments, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). UKTI has offices in 98 different countries, the nine English regions, London and Glasgow.

While UKTI holds aggregate figures relating to staff training, it does not hold records centrally on the number or cost of *(a)* away days, or *(b)* conferences that took place outside UKTI's buildings that were attended by civil servants.

To provide this information would require obtaining details from each location and therefore can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Unemployment: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of 16 to 24 year olds were not in education, employment or training in *(a)* Ashford constituency and *(b)* Kent in each of the last eight quarters. [304925]

Kevin Brennan: The Labour Force Survey sample is not large enough to provide quarterly estimates for small geographies such as local authority areas. We are able to give annual estimates for Kent from the Annual Population Survey, which has a larger sample, but this is not large enough to produce estimates at constituency level.

The following table gives the number and proportion of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in Kent from 2000 to 2008.

Please note that these estimates are subject to large sampling variability and should therefore be treated with caution and viewed in conjunction with their Confidence Interval[2] (CIs), which indicate how accurate an estimate is. For example, a CI of+/- 4.2 percentage points (pp) means that the true value is between 4.2pp above the estimate and 4.2pp below the estimate.

People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training in Kent

	16 to 24-year-olds NEET		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Confidence intervals around percentages*
2000	13,000	11	3.1
2001	17,000	14	3.3
2002	18,000	13	3.2
2003	18,000	15	3.6
2004	16,000	12	2.2
2005	19,000	13	2.2
2006	23,000	16	3.6
2007	24,000	17	3.8
2008	25,000	17	4.0

Base: 16 to 24-year-olds in Kent.

Note:

The ALALFS covers the period from March of the given year, to the following February.

Source:

2000 to 2003 Annual Local Area Labour Force Survey (ALALFS), 2004 to 2008 Annual population Survey.

Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent in Wales in each financial year since 1997. [306632]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: Country and regional analysis spending data for all Government Departments is available in the PESA CRA table on the HM Treasury website covering financial years 2003-04 to 2010-11. The latest data were collected prior to the announcement of the creation of BIS and so figures are currently presented against BERR and DIUS. Figures for BIS will be published in spring 2010 and earlier editions cover previous years and preceding Departments.

Yorkshire Forward and One North East: Public Appointments

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what provision is made in the proposed contracts of the new Chairman of *(a)* Yorkshire Forward and *(b)* One North East for circumstances where the body ceases to exist before the end of the contract. [305123]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The terms and conditions of all RDA board members including chairs states that:

> "should the Agency be dissolved, restructured or wound up during the period of appointment, the appointment would also cease with effect from that dissolution or such other date as is specified in any relevant legislation."

This clause will also be included in the contracts for the new chairs of Yorkshire Forward and One North East.

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[1] Age used is the respondents academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

[2] Those given are 95 per cent. confidence intervals.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 5 January 2010

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Air Travel

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on the accumulation and use of air miles by his Department's personnel flying at public expense. [308486]

Mr. Michael Foster: Staff employed by the Department for International Development (DFID) are not permitted to use air miles for their personal benefit. Any breach of these rules may result in dismissal.

Air miles accumulated in the course of an employee's business, may however be used to fund official travel.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what pay band his Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307562]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The role of the chief information officer (CIO) in the Department for International Development (DFID) is discharged by the director of business solutions division. The current post holder is employed on a permanent contract in the senior civil service pay band 2. The director of business solutions is responsible for an administration budget of £24.9 million in 2009-10.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307107]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1341W, on departmental pay.

Departmental Training

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307515]

Mr. Michael Foster: This information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what percentage of Parliamentary Questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307532]

Mr. Michael Foster: The number and percentage of named day parliamentary questions tabled for answer by the Department for International Development (DFID) which were answered on the day named are provided in the table.

Month	*Number answered on named day*	*Percentage answered on named day*
December 2008	4	100
January 2009	15	94
February 2009	16	100
March 2009	52	97
April 2009	14	94
May 2009	9	90
June 2009	16	95
July 2009	15	94
August 2009	0	n/a
September 2009	9	90
October 2009	19	80
November 2009	22	92

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the "Guide to Parliamentary Work", at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee Report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

Eritrea: Overseas Aid

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 497, on Eritrea: overseas aid, what steps his Department is taking to increase the access of non-governmental organisations to assist in the development of Eritrea. [307912]

Mr. Thomas: The Government of Eritrea do not consider non-government organisations to have a major role to play in either the development of the country or in addressing relief needs.

The UK Government will continue to press Government of Eritrea officials at every available opportunity to allow aid agencies to operate freely and without constraint for the good of the Eritrean people.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his latest assessment is of the food security situation in Eritrea; what steps his Department is taking in this regard; and if he will make a statement. [307913]

Mr. Thomas: The next three months will be critical for many areas across Eritrea. Poor rainfall, prolonged dry spells and high cereal prices have continued to impact on the food security of large numbers of people across the country. Early crop estimates indicate a decline in cereal production, compared to previously good harvests in 2007 and 2008. Acute malnutrition rates among children under-five continue to rise.

The Government of Eritrea has officially stated that there will be no hunger or food shortages in 2010. They have drawn up plans to meet any food shortfalls nationwide if cases arise.

The Department for International Development (DFID) will continue to monitor the situation closely alongside our relief partners in Eritrea.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of his Department's aid budget has been allocated to each recipient country in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [306824]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) past and future spending allocations are laid out in our Annual Reports which are available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/About-DFID/Finance-and-performance/Annual-report/

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 435W, on Gaza: reconstruction, what reasons the Government of Israel has given for preventing the entry into Gaza of building materials for reconstruction funded by his Department; and what his policy is on securing entry for such materials. [307176]

Mr. Michael Foster: There are two main reasons given by the Government of Israel for preventing entry of reconstruction materials into Gaza.

Firstly, Israel has expressed concerns that materials such as steel pipes or cement could be misused or misappropriated by Hamas and other organisations in Gaza to build weapons or defensive structures. We recognise that Israel has legitimate security concerns and that there is a risk some items could have a dual use. However, we believe with robust monitoring it is possible to address these concerns. The United Nations and other agencies have had extensive discussions with the Government of Israel over practical safeguards against diversion or misuse. Moreover, many items required to repair damaged homes and other infrastructure are not dual-use—such as plastic piping and glass. We have not received specific explanations from Israel of why the import of such items has been blocked or delayed.

Secondly, Israeli Ministers have noted that the continuing detention of Gilad Shalit and Hamas's refusal to renounce violence creates a wider political context for restrictions on movement of people and goods into and out of Gaza. The UK Government continue to call for the immediate, unconditional release of Gilad Shalit and for Hamas to renounce violence and recognise Israel's right to exist in peace and security. We do not accept, however, that access for humanitarian aid and aid workers should be linked to such considerations, nor that the import of materials needed to rebuild houses, schools, medical facilities and other critical infrastructure should be contingent on Hamas's actions.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 435W, on Gaza: reconstruction, whether his Department is considering alternative proposals to expedite the reconstruction of homes in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [307177]

Mr. Michael Foster: With the onset of winter, the reconstruction or repair to houses of an estimated 60,000 families in Gaza has been identified by the United Nations as a humanitarian priority. However, the continuing restrictions imposed by the Government of Israel on access for construction materials (including cement, steel reinforcement bars, and glass) have effectively put these reconstruction efforts on hold. The UK Government continue to lobby the Government of Israel for the unrestricted import of these, and other, materials.

At the same time, the Department for International Development (DFID) will consider favourably any alternative construction proposals which are practical, cost-effective, and meet the needs of the beneficiary population.

Palestinians: Utilities

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 436W, on Gaza: utilities, what remedial action his Department has taken to address the contamination of water supplies in Gaza; and what the Government's policy is on the supply of clean water to Gaza. [307175]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting a number of projects to increase the supply of clean water in Gaza. DFID is supporting the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in coordinating the international response on water and sanitation. We are also providing funding to Oxfam and Action Against Hunger to supply drinking water to vulnerable communities and carry out emergency rehabilitation of water infrastructure. Projects funded by DFID have helped improve access to water for over 335,000 people.

Restrictions placed on materials entering Gaza have limited the capacity to treat contaminated water or run desalination plants. We continue to lobby the Israeli Government to allow into Gaza the essential materials required to repair Gaza's water and sanitation infrastructure.

Security

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many UK private military and security companies have been awarded contracts by his Department to carry out work in *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Iraq, *(c)* Sudan, *(d)* Israel, *(e)* Somalia, *(f)* Pakistan, *(g)* Colombia, *(h)* Ethiopia and *(i)* Eritrea in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008, (v) 2009 and (vi) future years; and what the monetary value is of each contract. [306912]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not awarded any contracts to UK private military or security companies to carry out work in the listed countries during the periods stated.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many third sector agencies operating in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq and receiving government funding are employing private military and security companies. [307009]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: None of the NGOs receiving funding through the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral programmes in Afghanistan and Iraq employ either private military or security companies.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the Sri Lankan government's progress in resettling internally displaced persons in the north of the country; and if he will make a statement. [307997]

Mr. Michael Foster: The United Nations reported that as of the 10 December 2009 approximately 160,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been released from the closed camps in Sri Lanka. Of this number, around 131,000 people have been returned to their districts of origin and 29,000 people are either living with host families or in institutions. This represents progress by the Government of Sri Lanka towards their own target of returning 80 per cent. of the IDP population from the camps to their areas of origin by the end of 2009.

However, we are concerned that the conditions for returning IDPs are often poor and humanitarian access for UN agencies and NGOs to assist this population remains restricted. The UK Government continue to press the Government of Sri Lanka for humanitarian access to all returning IDPs as a priority. I refer the hon. Gentleman to my written ministerial statement to the House on 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 61-63WS.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what clinical evidence was used to establish the target emergency response time for *(a)* Category A patients at eight minutes and *(b)* Category B patients at 19 minutes; and what research his Department has (i) commissioned and (ii) evaluated on the effectiveness of those response times. [307428]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The eight minute response time standard for Category A (immediately life-threatening) calls is based on clinical evidence that shows that within the first 10 minutes of a sudden cardiac arrest, a patient's survival rate improves 10 per cent. for every minute that is saved by getting the defibrillator to the patient (Eisenberg, Horwood and Cummins 1990). Category B offers a fast response for those patients presenting conditions that are serious but not immediately life-threatening.

In 2006, The Department commissioned an evaluation on ambulance response time targets from the University of Sheffield titled 'The costs and benefits of changing ambulance service response time performance standards'.

Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he was first informed of the high standardised mortality rates at Basildon and Thurrock NHS Foundation Trust; and if he will make a statement; [303856]

(2) how many reports he has received of high standardised mortality rates in the last 12 months; and to which hospitals such reports related. [303859]

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date his Department was first informed of the high standardised mortality rates at Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. [304701]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Hospital Standardised Mortality Rates have been published on the NHS Choices website since April 2009 and are normally updated monthly. However, it can take several months to verify and check the raw data before they can be used reliably and placed on the website.

In addition, the Care Quality Commission alerts individual national health statistics organisations to high specialty mortality ratios and they can then pursue any issue arising with the NHS organisation concerned until it is satisfactorily resolved. The Department does not routinely receive reports of high specialty mortality ratios on open cases at individual trusts.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State made an oral statement about Basildon and Thurrock NHS Foundation Trust in the House on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 855.

Breast Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each (i) primary care trust area of responsibility and (ii) cancer network area of responsibility where a diagnosis of breast cancer was recorded in the Hospital Episodes Statistics Database in each of the last five years. [307667]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 343W.

Burns: Merseyside

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he expects to receive any further recommendations or reports from the Northern Burn Care review relating to the provision of burn care services in Merseyside; and if he will make a statement. [308031]

Ann Keen: On 11 November 2009 NHS North West published a statement concluding that there was no compelling evidence to demonstrate that the new supra regional service would improve upon existing outcomes for patients with the most severe burns. They did, however, agree to re-examine proposals if there was evidence to demonstrate that supra regional centres would provide significantly improved outcomes and sustainable services for the population of Northern England, North Wales and Isle of Man.

In the meantime, the Northern Burn Care Network continues to work with all specialist burn care services across Northern England, North Wales and Isle of Man to improve the quality of services across the whole patient pathway and to meet the National Burn Care Standards.

Cancer: Health Services

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per head on cancer treatment and services in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South West Strategic Health Authority and *(c)* each primary care trust within the South West Strategic Health Authority in each financial year from 1997-98 to 2008-09. [307368]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

The following table shows an estimate of the gross expenditure on cancers and tumours per head of population for the last five available financial years for England. This information was first collected in 2003-04 and is not available for any previous years.

Estimated gross expenditure on cancer and tumours (all types) at England level from 2003-04 to 2007-08

Financial year	*£ per head of population*
2003-04	68.85
2004-05	76.73
2005-06	87.50
2006-07	86.23
2007-08	97.92

Source:
Department of Health Resource Accounts

The following table shows an estimate of the gross expenditure on cancers and tumours per head of population for the same period for South West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and those primary care trusts (PCTs) serving the South West SHA area.

Estimated gross expenditure on cancer and tumours (all types) from 2003-04 to 2007-08 for the South West SHA and those PCTs within the South West SHA area

£ per head of unified weighted population

National health service organisation	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
South West SHA	77.47	84.52	96.38	83.21	103.42
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	92.11	99.42	97.25	87.08	132.35
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching PCT	89.87	79.23	88.01	116.72	113.67
Bristol Teaching PCT	82.54	83.46	87.32	86.87	97.47
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	75.47	88.40	99.04	68.39	94.73
Devon PCT	78.19	85.66	105.94	78.71	114.78
Dorset PCT	78.87	82.53	91.80	79.12	104.84
Gloucestershire PCT	85.10	97.76	109.79	78.55	106.15
North Somerset PCT	71.75	82.51	110.19	98.14	107.18
Plymouth Teaching PCT	69.40	75.24	87.25	78.65	78.70
Somerset PCT	71.47	85.99	89.95	82.62	102.33
South Gloucestershire PCT	72.39	58.80	98.33	75.15	95.43
Swindon PCT	55.97	67.60	74.83	83.86	86.98
Torbay Care Trust	91.28	110.18	105.62	104.01	112.63
Wiltshire PCT	66.92	76.47	91.20	79.86	98.75

Notes:
1. PCT-level Figures for 2003-04 are net expenditure per head of unified weighted population. PCT-level figures for 2004-05 onwards are net expenditure per head of unified weighted population, adjusted to add back expenditure from sources outside the national health service and to deduct expenditure on other PCT's populations incurred through lead commissioning arrangements.
2. SHA-level expenditure per head is calculated using the combined expenditure and population figures of each PCT within the SHA area.

Source:
Department of Health Resource Accounts

The figures in these tables include primary prescribing but exclude General Medical Services and Personal Medical Services expenditure and any prevention-related expenditure, such as screening.

Care Quality Commission: Expenditure

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on the Care Quality Commission since the Commission's formation. [307699]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Care Quality Commission was formally established on 1 October 2008. The Commission published its report and accounts for the period 1 October 2008 to 30 March 2009 in July 2009.

The Commission commenced its regulatory responsibilities on 1 April 2009. The agreed revenue funding for the Commission from the Department in the 2009-10 financial year is £137.4 million, of which, £38.3 million is funding to support the transition from the previous regulators. The agreed capital funding for the Commission from the Department for 2009-10 is £17.4 million.

Carers

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate has been made of the number of carers in England. [308148]

Phil Hope: The main source of information that the Department uses for the number of carers is the 2001 Census.

Nomis, a web-based database, run by the University of Durham on behalf of the Office for National Statistics, shows that there were 4.85 million carers in England in 2001.

Dental Services: Learning Disability

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with learning disabilities had all their teeth removed in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [306807]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307959]

Phil Hope: The quantity and proportion of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt to commercial suppliers are shown in the following table.

Month	*Quantity of invoices paid within 10 days to commercial suppliers*	*Proportion of invoices paid within 10 days to commercial suppliers*
October 2008	15,403	98.11
November 2008	13,384	98.14
December 2008	14,202	95.69
January 2009	15,830	97.02
February 2009	12,777	78.19
March 2009	16,949	95.56
April 2009	16,250	96.44
May 2009	15,851	95.77
June 2009	18,692	96.39
July 2009	18,174	97.36
August 2009	15,902	97.14
September 2009	18,281	97.98
October 2009	17,142	96.66
November 2009	17,504	94.11

Note:

Payment performance was lower in February 2009 due to the short term impact on Welfare Foods and Healthy Start payments caused by the introduction of a new web based claims system. This system was introduced to bring significant benefits to some of the smaller suppliers who will receive their payments more promptly and more regularly. This new system also provides higher security and validation checks.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307516]

Phil Hope: The Department is strongly committed to developing its staff and equipping them with the skills, knowledge and expertise they need to carry out their work. Away days and conferences make a significant contribution to such development.

Away days and conferences are typically arranged and booked by individual teams in the Department. No central records of these events are kept and to collect this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Co-ordination

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what occasions on *(a)* Monday 7 December and *(b)* Tuesday 8 December 2009 he had discussions with Ministers of the Department for Work and Pensions. [307696]

Phil Hope: Policy discussions between Ministers did not take place on either of the two dates.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what pay band his Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307564]

Phil Hope: Christine Connelly (Director General and Chief Information Officer), is in senior civil service payband 3, and was employed on a permanent civil service contract. The overall budget for which the Chief Information Officer is responsible is, in total, £1,485.321 million in 2009-10. This includes those costs of the National Programme for Information Technology (NPfIT) in the national health service which are expected to be incurred in the 2009-10 financial year.

Departmental Internet

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what websites that are within his Department's responsibility. [308030]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is unclear what meaning the hon. Member attaches to the word "responsibility" in this context.

The Department contributes directly or indirectly through funds to the following websites, although some are run by other organisations.

www.dh.gov.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.chre.org.uk

www.gscc.org.uk

www.hpa.org.uk
www.hfea.gov.uk
www.hta.gov.uk
www.mhra.gov.uk
www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk
www.cqc.org.uk/

In addition, the Department is also responsible for reviewing, converging and closing the following sites, as part of its commitment to Cabinet Office under Transformational Government:

www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/finman.nsf
www.immunisation.nhs.uk
www.performance.doh.gov.uk
www.nhs-procure21.gov.uk
www.18weeks.nhs.uk
www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk
www.mosaic.nhs.uk
www.valuingpeople.gov.uk
www.info.doh.gov.uk/cmo/cmosur01.nsf/frmcmosurvey
www.hgc.gov.uk
www.irpanel.org.uk
www.condomessentialwear.co.uk
www.breastfeeding.nhs.uk
www.5aday.nhs.uk
www.immunisation.nhs.uk
www.healthystart.nhs.uk
www.nhsidentity.nhs.uk
www.photolibrary.nhs.uk
www.pasa.nhs.uk
www.talktofrank.com
www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/iar.nsf?open
www.appointments.org.uk
www.info.doh.gov.uk/nhsfactsheets.nsf
www.asthmar-d.org.uk
www.mdx.ac.uk/www/drugsmisuse/
www.disco.port.ac.uk/ictriwww.rddirect.org.uk
www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/rd2policy.nsf
www.ct-toolkit.ac.uk
www.east-of-england-rdsu.org.uk
www.healthtechnologyportal.org.uk
www.rdsu.org.uk
www.rdinfo.org.uk
www.rdlearning.org.uk
www.socialworkandcare.co.uk
www.nhsplus.nhs.uk
www.smokefreeengland.co.uk
www.healthystart.nhs.uk
www.hsru.co.uk
www.info.doh.gov.uk/sar/cmopatie.nsf
www.info.doh.gov.uk/nhs/cdoweb.nsf/Main?OpenFrameset
www.buginvestigators.co.uk
www.arsac.org.uk
www.comare.org.uk
www.multites.com/dhthesaurus
www.info.doh.gov.uk/Sect64/S64users.nsf
www.shape.dh.gov.uk
www.adb.dh.gov.uk
www.nibsc.ac.uk
www.expertpatients.nhs.uk
www.pharmacopoeia.org.uk
www.nhscommslink.nhs.uk
www.sexualhealthprofessional.org.uk
www.info.doh.gov.uk/cfs/cfsusers.nsf/
www.info.doh.gov.uk/Carers/Carersweb.Nsf/vwWebHome
www.info.doh.gov.uk/nhs/cdoweb.nsf/Main?OpenFrameset
www.endoflifecare.nhs.uk
www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 6.24, page 103 of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, what his Department's planned *(a)* total, *(b)* resource, *(c)* capital and *(d)* near-cash resource expenditure is in each year until 2012-13. [307754]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have not done a spending review at this stage, and therefore, the specific numbers requested in the question are not available.

Dietary Supplements: Health Hazards

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* impact assessment and *(b)* economic impact assessment has been conducted in respect of the proposed restriction of sale of food supplements above a certain potency; and if he will make a statement. [307122]

Gillian Merron: An initial impact assessment on the setting of minimum and maximum levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements was developed by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in early 2007 with advice from better regulation teams at the FSA and Cabinet Office in order to obtain the views of stakeholders at an early stage and to inform the UK's negotiating position. The agency continues to gather information for, and develop, the impact assessment in consultation with industry.

A European Commission-sponsored analysis of the economic, social and environmental impact of the policy options for the establishment of maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements was undertaken in 2008. The United Kingdom food supplements industry provided relevant data. The European Commission has indicated that this impact assessment will accompany its proposals on maximum levels when they are issued.

The FSA will make a detailed assessment of the likely impact of setting maximum levels when the levels are set out in formal proposals. The FSA will carry out a full public consultation on the Commission's proposals and its draft impact assessment at that time.

Disabled: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many respondees to the Social Care Green Paper *(a)* supported and *(b)* opposed changes to attendance allowance and disability living allowance. [307690]

Phil Hope: The public consultation on the Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together", received around 29,000 responses overall. Analysis of all the responses is currently under way, and it would be misleading to comment or provide data on the results until this is analysis is fully completed. The Government will be publishing an analysis of the consultation early this year.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance which is typically spent on (i) activities of daily living and (ii) instrumental activities of daily living. [307692]

Phil Hope: No such estimate has been made, and that information is not readily available.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 206, what plans the Government has to disburse *(a)* attendance allowance and disability living allowance and *(b)* a cash equivalent through local authorities. [307695]

Phil Hope: If disability benefits for older people are reformed as part of the National Care Service, those receiving the affected benefits at the time of reform would continue to receive the same level of cash support. We will give more details about the National Care Service offer in our White Paper later this year.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 154, whether an equivalent level of support includes non-care services currently purchased by money made available through attendance allowance or disability living allowance; and whether an assessment for cash disbursement includes non-care services currently purchased by money made available through these allowances; [307715]

(2) whether he plans to limit the services on which people may spend their entitlement under the Government's proposals for the care system. [307716]

Phil Hope: We have not taken any decisions on whether some disability benefits for older people will be reformed in the new care and support system. If disability benefits for older people are reformed as part of the National Care Service, those receiving the affected benefits at the time of reform would continue to receive the same level of cash support. We also know that the flexibility of disability benefits is valued by those who receive them, and we want to ensure that those in receipt of affected benefits at the time of reform retain control over how they spend their cash support.

Under the new care and support system, once people are assessed they will get a personal budget rather than being told what services they should receive and will receive support in using this resource. Some people will choose to take their budget as cash, and pay for everything directly themselves. Others will prefer to let someone else manage the funding on their behalf—either someone from the local authority or a family member or friend. People will have the control to get the services they want.

We will give more details about the National Care Service offer in our White Paper later this year.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether people currently eligible for *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance would receive (i) an equivalent level of support, (ii) an equivalent cash payment and (iii) an equivalent cash payment in addition to any other funds received under the proposals in the Government's Social Care Green Paper. [307717]

Phil Hope: As we said in the Green Paper, if we were to draw some disability benefits for older people into the new National Care Service, we would create a new offer for individuals with care needs. This support would be delivered in line with the best principles of the current benefits system: a universal entitlement, with flexible methods of payment, and a focus on lower-level needs and prevention. It is our aim to deliver a better joined-up service, with people only needing one assessment of their needs to gain access to a whole range of care and support services. We will give more details about the National Care Service offer in our White Paper later this year.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* assessment he has made of and *(b)* modelling his Department has undertaken on the relationship between the group that currently receives (i) attendance allowance and (ii) disability living allowance and groups that would receive support under the Government's proposed reform for the social care system. [307718]

Phil Hope: We have not taken any decisions on whether some benefits for older people will be reformed in the new care and support system. If we do decide to integrate some benefits for older people into the new care and support system, we will provide further details in our White Paper later this year.

However, we said in our Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care and Support Together" that we think we should create a new and better care and support system, looking at how we can make the best use of public money to provide a joined-up, consistent and fair care and support system. This would enable the greatest public support to go to those who will benefit from it most, both people who have developed low levels of need and people with high levels of need, and would ensure a fair and consistent allocation of resources. We want to make sure that people with low to moderate needs continue to get the support they need to live independently, building on the role that disability benefits play and considering how this might be best achieved in a new care and support system.

The Personal Social Services Research Unit, which is part of the London School of Economics, has been commissioned by the Department to conduct detailed financial modelling of the new care and support system. Their methodology and interim report was published in July on their website at: www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2644.pdf, and in the impact assessment published alongside the Green Paper. This work is ongoing.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who are eligible for *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance who would cease to receive support under each proposal set out in the Green Paper on Social Care. [307719]

Phil Hope: We have not taken any decisions on whether some benefits for older people will be reformed in the new care and support system. If disability benefits for older people are reformed as part of the National Care Service, those receiving the affected benefits at the time of reform would continue to receive the same level of cash support. We will give more details about the National Care Service offer in our White Paper later this year.

Health Professions: Complaints

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department holds information on complaints made to the General Medical Council against medical practitioners. [307347]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold information on complaints made to the General Medical Council (which is an independent regulatory body) against medical practitioners. Information relating to the GMC's fitness to practice function is available from the GMC, a summary of which is published in their annual report, which is available on their website at:

http://www.gmc-uk.org/search.asp?client=gmc_frontend&site=gmc_collection&output=xml_no_dtd&proxystylesheet=gmc_frontend&ie=UTF-8&q=annual%2Breport%2B2008&partialfields=&btnG=Google+Search&num=10&getfields=description&start=0&-as_sitesearch=http://www.gmc-uk.org/concerns&filter=0&txtKeywords=annual%Breport%2B2008&cboSection=&cboUserType=

or by writing to them at GMC, Regent's Place, 350 Euston Road, London NW1 3JN.

Health: Learning Disability

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 354W, on health: learning disabilities, when he plans to publish the independent survey of activity on the directed enhanced service of health checks for those with learning disabilities. [307701]

Phil Hope: There are currently no plans to publish the results of the independent survey.

Hospital Beds

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed days at Ashford and St Peters NHS Trust were taken by patients who had already been cleared for discharge in each of the last three years. [304742]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Care Quality Commission (CQC), formerly the Healthcare Commission, reports in detail on delayed transfers of care at national health service trusts each year, with the exception of 2007-08, when this was not used as a indicator. CQC information about delayed transfers of care for Ashford and St. Peter's NHS Trust for 2006-07 and 2008-09 can be found at:

2006-07

http://2007ratings.healthcarecommission.org.uk/healthcareproviders/searchforhealthcareproviders.cfm/widCalll/customWidgets.content_view_l/cit_id/11101/element/ET_AS_T004

2008-09

http://2009ratings.cqc.org.uk/findcareservices/informationabouthealthcareservices/overallperformance/searchfororganisation.cfm?widCalll=customWidgets.content_view_l&cit_id=RTK&element=1114&parentelement=ET

Hospitals: Complaints

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints the Care Quality Commission has received regarding the cleanliness and hygiene of acute hospitals since its inception. [307698]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Care Quality Commission does not have a role in following up individual complaints. The Commission has advised us that when it does receive such complaints, it passes them on to the relevant body but it does not record the number of such complaints received.

Kidneys: Injuries

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take in response to each of the eight principal recommendations made in the recently published National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death report on acute kidney injury. [307637]

Ann Keen: Dr. Donal O'Donoghue, National Clinical Director for Kidney Care, has written to the chief executive of the National Confidential Enquiry into Patient Outcome and Death further to the report on acute kidney injury. The letter outlines a series of actions that the Department, working with a range of national health service, professional, and patients' organisations will oversee at the national level to improve the prevention, detection and management of acute kidney injury (acute renal failure).

A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Muscular Dystrophy: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that patients with muscular dystrophy in London have access to NHS-funded muscular dystrophy care advisers; and if he will make a statement; [307434]

(2) what discussions he has had with the London Specialised Commissioning Group on a review of neuromuscular services in London; and if he will make a statement. [307435]

Ann Keen: No discussions have been held with the London Specialised Commissioning Group on a review of neuromuscular services in that region.

It is the responsibility of primary care trusts to ensure the provision of services for neuromuscular dystrophy patients in that region, including access to national health service funded muscular dystrophy care advisers.

NHS: Buildings

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the risk-adjusted backlog maintenance cost for the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority has been in each year since 1997; and what the maintenance backlog to reach estate code condition B was in (i) England and (ii) each strategic health authority in each such year. [308093]

Phil Hope: The information held by the Department is shown in the following tables.

National health service organisations are responsible for the provision and maintenance of facilities to support the delivery of high quality clinical services. Therefore, the NHS will locally prioritise investment to reduce backlog maintenance based on risk assessment, reconfiguration planning and available resources. The majority of backlog maintenance relates to low priority work, which trusts will undertake through maintenance programmes. Where higher risks are present, work will be undertaken as a priority. While levels of backlog maintenance vary across the NHS, it is estimated that around 75 per cent. of the total costs to eradicate backlog maintenance are concentrated in 20 per cent. of organisations.

The Department collects data on backlog maintenance and risk adjusted backlog maintenance annually from NHS trusts through its Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC). The data provided are not amended centrally and the responsibility for its accuracy lies with the contributing NHS organisations.

The collection of data on risk-adjusted backlog maintenance was first introduced in 2004-05 and therefore information prior to that reporting year is not available centrally. The 28 strategic health authorities were created in 2002-03 and re-organised in 2006-07 into 10.

Risk-adjusted backlog maintenance cost for the NHS in England

National total	*Risk adjusted backlog maintenance (£ million)*
2004-05	1,342
2005-06	1,744
2006-07	1,542
2007-08	1,854
2008-09	1,783

Risk-adjusted backlog maintenance cost for the NHS at each strategic health authority

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
East Midlands	92	118	65	154	130
East of England	115	116	107	152	128
London	346	535	451	[illegible]	[illegible]
North East	60	73	58	69	59
North West	86	108	111	96	120
South Central	80	115	103	136	118
South East Coast	121	139	140	159	137
South West	88	116	76	129	141
West Midlands	253	296	265	259	251
Yorkshire and the Humber	101	128	164	211	275
National total	1,342	1,744	1,542	1,854	1,783

Total backlog maintenance cost for the NHS in England

National total	*Total backlog maintenance (£ million)*
1997-98	2,836
1998-99	3,027
1999-2000	3,108
2000-01	3,242
2001-02	3,378
2002-03	3,518
2003-04	3,198
2004-05	3,142
2005-06	3,684
2006-07	3,740
2007-08	4,044
2008-09	4,085

(ii) Total maintenance backlog cost for the NHS at each strategic health authority

£ million

Total backlog maintenance by the 28 strategic health authorities	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	177	91	128	130
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	94	82	136	138
Birmingham and the Black Country	244	262	286	360
Cheshire and Merseyside	153	75	53	69
County Durham and Tees Valley	62	29	57	63
Cumbria and Lancashire	97	64	58	58
Dorset and Somerset	47	10	18	15
Essex	82	76	93	77
Greater Manchester	205	172	117	122
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	89	80	102	131
Kent and Medway	106	114	109	151
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	109	118	100	95
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	99	87	63	78
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	72	79	85	93
North Central London	172	189	135	241
North East London	147	174	168	121
North West London	221	344	266	456
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	81	70	76	74
Shropshire and Staffordshire	98	100	94	90
South East London	164	145	119	154
South West London	161	154	176	204
South West Peninsula	41	18	31	70
South Yorkshire	69	46	49	67
Surrey and Sussex	108	85	75	94
Thames Valley	151	106	124	149
Trent	148	151	146	106
West Midlands South SHA	94	90	84	92

(ii) Total maintenance backlog cost for the NHS at each strategic health authority

£ million

Total backlog maintenance by the 28 strategic health authorities	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
West Yorkshire	224	188	193	185
National total	3,518	3,198	3,142	3,684

£ million

Total backlog maintenance by the 10 strategic health authorities	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
East Midlands	297	285	279
East of England	290	363	371
London	1,110	1,106	1,088
North East	132	148	145
North West	309	309	322
South Central	276	307	273
South East Coast	249	306	297
South West	173	249	296
West Midlands	519	553	525
Yorkshire and the Humber	383	418	489
National total	3,740	4,044	4,085

NHS: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what key efficiency gains are under consideration in the national health service in order to provide resources for front-line services. [308050]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The national health service locally and regionally is best placed to identify savings based on their circumstances and priorities. However, NHS staff have told us that they need support to make these changes. Drawing on the available evidence and on the ideas and experience of front-line staff, we will back major programmes of work to support commissioners and providers. These programmes will be locally led, but will have national support, and will ensure that innovation is spread rapidly.

As part of these programmes, we are exploring a number of areas under the HM Treasury-led Public Value Programme, including:

commissioning;

tariff;

estates;

long term conditions; and

community services.

We are also working actively with our arms length bodies, NHS organisations and others including HM Treasury and the Shareholder Executive to implement the recommendations of the Operational Efficiency Programme. Rather than initiating new projects, in many areas this builds upon significant progress made by the Department and the NHS in recent years. For example, the establishment of NHS Shared Business Services, which is now delivering shared back office services for over 100 NHS organisations.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 6.24, page 103 of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, what his Department's plans are for NHS *(a)* total, *(b)* resource, *(c)* capital and *(d)* near-cash resource expenditure in each year until 2012-13. [307752]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As set out in paragraph 6.23, page 103 of the pre-Budget report, the Government have not done a spending review at this stage, and therefore, the specific numbers requested in the question are not available.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to renegotiate the National programme for IT contracts for the delivery of the Care Records Service with *(a)* BT for its delivery of the Spine, *(b)* CSC for its delivery of iSOFT's Lorenzo and *(c)* BT for its delivery of Cerner Millennium; [307705]

(2) what components of the National programme for IT will have their budgets ring-fenced from the proposed efficiency saving outlined in the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747. [307708]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Decisions on where efficiency savings will be found remain to be taken. They will depend partly on the outcome of discussions with suppliers about the potential for reductions to the scope of the systems, and any contractual consequences. We will also look carefully at the savings that can be made from the costs of managing delivery of the programme.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date BT is expected to complete the implementation of Cerner Millennium in each of the 12 trusts in its Southern Local Service Provider structure; and how much BT will be paid on completion of this work. [307707]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: BT took over responsibility for the Cerner Millennium system at eight sites in the southern programme for information technology (IT) area, which were previously covered by a contract with Fujitsu Services Ltd, in July 2009. BT has been contracted to upgrade six of the trusts to an enhanced version of Cerner Millennium. BT first needs to transfer these systems from Fujitsu's data centre to its own, and is on schedule to complete this work before the end of March 2010. Timing of completion of the upgrades will depend on the outcome of ongoing discussion between the national health service locally and the company. Discussions are continuing with BT with regard to implementing Cerner Millennium at some further sites in the southern programme for IT area.

The increase in the total lifetime value of the BT local service provider contract consequent on transfer to the company of elements of work in the southern programme area previously covered under contract with Fujitsu, assuming all the requirements are successfully delivered, is £546 million.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* suppliers to the National Programme for IT on changes to the National Programme for IT budgets; and on what dates such meetings took place; [307704]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the National Programme for IT and the front line of the NHS. [307709]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since its inception, the Department has consulted and communicated with its national health service stakeholders, including clinicians, senior NHS managers and information management and technology staff, and the medical professional representative and health regulatory bodies, on a frequent and regular basis about all aspects of the NHS information technology programme. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has also often discussed issues relating to the programme in his regular meetings with the Chancellor.

As part of the current Government-wide drive to find efficiency savings and better value for money on major projects, officials are holding ongoing discussions with the Treasury, and with suppliers, about how these might be generated in relation to the national programme.

NHS: Manpower

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent *(a)* managers and *(b)* senior managers were in post in each NHS trust in each of the last five years. [308029]

Ann Keen: A table giving the number of managers and senior managers in post in each, trust in each of the last five years has been placed in the Library.

North East: Neuromuscular Services

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has had discussions with the North East Specialised Commissioning Group on a review of neuromuscular services in that region; [307507]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that vulnerable patients with muscular dystrophy in the North East have access to NHS-funded muscular dystrophy care advisers. [307508]

Ann Keen: No discussions have been held with the North East Specialised Commissioning Group (NESCG) on a review of neuromuscular services in that region.

It is the responsibility of the NESCG to ensure the provision of services for neuromuscular dystrophy patients in that region, including access to national health service funded muscular dystrophy care advisers.

Obesity: Surgery

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-UK citizens received gastric band surgery in hospitals and clinics in England and Wales in 2008. [306110]

Gillian Merron: The information is not available in the form requested. The NHS Information Centre does not collect information relating to activities in Wales, nor is information recorded on patients who are non-UK citizens. However, information is collected on a patients' place of residence.

Data for 2008-09 show that there were four finished consultant episodes for non-UK resident patients who received gastric band surgery in hospitals and clinics in England.

Note:

The NHS Information Centre do not collect data relating to Wales. Data is provided relating to activities in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES)

Record details on residence (i.e. where the patient is living) rather than citizenship. Non-UK residence does not imply non-UK citizenship, for example, a UK citizen might be resident in France.

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

A FCE is defined as a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. The figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

Number of episodes with a (named) main or secondary procedure

The figure represents the number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 operative procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one operative procedure field of the record. More procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients undergoing a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.

OPCS 4.4 codes

The OPCS 4.4 codes used for gastric band surgery are:

G30.3—Partitioning of stomach using band (Insertion of a gastric band)

G38.7—Removal of gastric band (Removal of a gastric band)

The code G30.8 (Other specified plastic operations on stomach—Adjustment of gastric band) has not been included owing to the fact that though the code may include the adjustment of a gastric band, it is not limited to that procedure.

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Out of Area Treatment: Wales

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients from Wales received treatment at Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust in each of the last five years; what the cost of such treatment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [307284]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the number of patients from Wales who received treatment at Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust in each of the last five years is not held centrally.

Treatment is measured as a count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs)[1]. The number of FCEs at the trust where the strategic health authority (SHA) of residence was Wales[2] in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

[1] Finished consultant episodes (FCE). A FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] SHA/primary care trust (PCT) of residence. The SHA or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics, The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

	Number of FCEs where the SHA of residence was Wales
2008-09	5,058
2007-08	4,483
2006-07	4,484
2005-06	4,550
2004-05	456

Information on the cost of treatment of patients from Wales at Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust is not held centrally.

Smoking

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people *(a)* under the age of 18 years old, *(b)* between 18 and 24 years old and *(c)* over the age of 24 years smoked in England in each year since 2000. [308085]

Gillian Merron: The information is not available in the requested format.

The percentage of children aged 11 to 15 who are regular smokers (smoke at least one cigarette a week) and occasional smokers (smoke less than one cigarette a week) is available in Table 2.1 of the publication 'Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England, 2008'. Data are available from 2000 to 2008. This publication has already been placed in the Library and is available on the following link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/sdd08fullreport

The percentage of adults aged 16 and over in England, who are current smokers is presented in Table 2.1 of 'Statistics on Smoking, England 2009'. Data are available for each year between 2000 and 2007 for the following age breakdowns: aged 16-19, 20-24, 25-34, 35-49, 50-59 and 60 and above. This publication has already been placed in the Library and is available at the following link:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/smoking09

Data for adults and children are not directly comparable as definitions for smoking are different in adults and children and the data were collected in different surveys.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what impact assessments were undertaken of the effects on licensed premises of the ban on smoking in public places were carried out *(a)* before and *(b)* since the implementation of the ban. [308681]

Gillian Merron: The Regulatory Impact Assessment for the smokefree element of the Health Act 2006 is published, a copy has already been placed in the Library, and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Legislation/Regulatoryimpactassessment/DH_4138930

We have given a commitment to review the impact of the smokefree law three years after its implementation on 1 July 2007. The review will take place in the latter part of 2010. In preparation for the review, the Department has commissioned a number of research reports. Once these reports have been completed and peer reviewed they will be published and will be given full consideration as part of the review.

Social Enterprise Investment Fund

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 288W, on the Social Enterprise Investment Fund, on what date each organisation in receipt of a grant from the Social Enterprise Investment Fund in 2009-10 *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received its grant. [307684]

Phil Hope: The following table shows the organisations that have received money from the Social Enterprise Investment Fund in 2009-10.

Organisation	*Application date*	*Disbursement date*	*Grant or loan*
Deep Green Care Community	1 February 2009	24 September 2009	Grant
Eagle Recruitment Centre	1 June 2009	1 October 2009	Grant
Paul Lambden (East Lancs PCT)	21 June 2009	6 October 2009	Grant
Destiny Support	31 July 2008	29 July 2009	Grant
MiLife UK CIC	1 August 2009	15 October 2009	Loan
DeCoda	1 April 2009	29 September 2009	Loan
Caleb CIC	4 August 2009	2 November 2009	Loan

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 288W, on the Social Enterprise Investment Fund, how much the Social Enterprise Investment Fund has spent on business support services since July 2008; and how many organisations have made use of the business support services provided by the Fund in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [307685]

Phil Hope: In 2008-09, the fund manager did not offer business support services. In 2009-10, business support services were offered and 31 organisations have made use of the services to date, and received £64,686 in total.

Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the provision of free personal care at home falls under the *(a)* partnership, *(b)* insurance or *(c)* comprehensive model of the Social Care Green Paper. [307674]

Phil Hope: It is very important not to conflate the funding for a national care service with the funding for the Government's Personal Care at Home Bill. The Bill is about putting more money into the system as soon as possible to help people with the highest needs live independently at home. The Green Paper is about building a sustainable system for the future. We have been consulting widely on how to best do that.

All the proposals outlined in the Bill are funded through efficiencies and reprioritisations in the Department of Health and in Local Government. The Bill will protect those who currently receive personal care services for free from changes in the future. It will also help around 130,000 people who need home care for the first time to regain their independence. This intensive help, or "re-ablement", will help people to regain their independence and prevent ill health. This means people will maintain their dignity and rebuild their confidence so that they can live at home for longer. As well as providing a free personal care service to thousands of people, the Bill will also benefit their families.

There are still huge challenges in the care and support system and the Green Paper sought people's views on how we resolve those challenges and create a sustainable system for the long term. But we cannot stand still in meeting the challenge of rising costs now. The Bill will help support those who are currently most in need of personal care in their own homes.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether an assessment for a package of care as proposed in the Social Care Green Paper includes assessing the extra costs of being disabled in the same terms at the White Paper in which that allowance was proposed. [307691]

Phil Hope: The Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together" proposed a new nationally consistent care assessment process. We will give more details about the National Care Service offer in our White Paper later this year, and this will include information on the care assessment process.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 498W, on social services, from which of his Department's budgets he plans to fund the transition costs. [307726]

Phil Hope: A one-off transition cost of £335 million is set out in the impact assessment for the first half-year of the policy, from October 2010. Of this, £210 million will come from the Department and £125 million from local government efficiency savings.

For details of the budgets which will be re-prioritised to meet these first half-year costs, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 296W.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to paragraph 6.46, pages 109-10 of the pre-Budget report, Cm 7747, how the anticipated savings correlate with the estimate in the impact assessment for his Department's Personal Care at Home Bill that more people will be brought into the state-funded home care system. [307757]

Phil Hope: The pre-Budget report announced that councils will make £250 million efficiency savings by 2012-13 from reducing the significant variations in the proportion of funding that councils spend on residential care provision through supporting more people to live for longer in their own homes.

These efficiency savings will be used to help meet the ever growing pressure on budgets from demographic changes and to support more people to live in their homes through the offer of free personal care for those with the greatest need. These savings may be used alongside the funding made available by the Department to deliver the proposals of the Personal Care at Home Bill.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the ability of local authorities to deliver free personal care to people with *(a)* disabilities and *(b)* the highest need; [308024]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* capacity and *(b)* capability of local authorities to provide free personal care to all people who need it; and if he will make a statement. [308025]

Phil Hope: It is the responsibility for each local authority (LA), at a local level, to determine and manage the extent to which they have the ability, capability and capacity to deliver the policy to meet their population needs. The consultation document, "Personal Care at Home-a consultation on proposals for regulation and guidance", recognises this and, at section 2.4, sets out specific areas for LAs to consider and potential ways in which the Department can support LAs.

The consultation document has already been placed in the Library and on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_109139

Social Services: Disabled

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the annual cost of providing free personal care for people with disabilities; and if he will make a statement. [308022]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 497W.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Autism: Mental Health Services

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that children with an autistic spectrum disorder have appropriate support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; [307299]

(2) whether any Tier 4 child and adolescent mental health services cater exclusively for children with an autistic spectrum disorder; [307307]

(3) what autistic-specific training is required of staff working in child and adolescent mental health services Tiers 2 to 4; [307308]

(4) whether the proxy indicator used in public service agreement 12 on the development and delivery of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for children and young people with learning disabilities is intended to cover children with autistic spectrum disorders who do not have a learning disability. [307309]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have taken steps to ensure that Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are improved for all children and adolescents, including those with an autistic spectrum disorder. The independent CAMHS Review, commissioned by Ministers, reported in November 2008. The Review made 20 recommendations aimed at improving children's and young people's mental health and psychological wellbeing. The Government is shortly to publish a Full Government Response to the Review, aimed at providers and commissioners of services, which describes how professionals can work effectively together so that everyone in the wider children's workforce knows exactly where to turn when a child has emotional wellbeing or mental health needs.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence is currently developing a clinical guideline on the recognition, referral and diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

The children's service mapping exercise in England in 2007-08 found that the number of children and young people supported with ASD had increased from 7,719 in 2006 (7 per cent. of caseload) to 10,231 in 2007 (9 per cent.). 685 CAMHS teams supported ASD children and young people and their families. Of these 108 CAMHS teams reported providing targeted work for children and young people with ASD. Additionally, of the 349 community paediatric services, 193 (55 per cent.) ran ASD clinics.

There are Tier 4 services which cater specifically for children with ASD. Examples include the Hawksmere Children's Unit (Autism Therapy and Education Centre) in Hertfordshire, which is specifically for boys from the age of 13-18 with ASD, and Cygnet Springside, based in the north west and south west of England.

The training of staff is for determination at a local level. Staff dealing with patients with ASD would be expected to be trained to deal with such patients.

Within PSA12 (to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people) the Government are committed to improving the mental and emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people. Four proxy measures are being used to monitor progress: the development and delivery of CAMHS for children and young people with learning disabilities; appropriate accommodation and support for 16/17 year olds; availability of 24-hour cover to meet urgent mental health needs; and joint commissioning of early intervention support. Services for children and young people with ASD are included in three of these proxies and those who additionally have a learning disability are included in the learning disability proxy.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authorities have received no funding under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [303726]

Mr. Coaker: 75 local authorities have received no funding under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. 20 of these have already entered the BSF programme but will not have received any funding by the end of the 2009-10 financial year. These authorities are set out in the following list.

Local authority

Bedford
Brent
Camden
Croydon
Darlington
Hammersmith and Fulham
Havering
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Kingston
Norfolk
Plymouth
Sefton
Staffordshire
Stockton on Tees
Suffolk
Wakefield
Walsall
Warrington
Worcestershire

The remaining 55 local authorities are listed as follows. Those marked with an asterisk have received funding under the BSF One School pathfinder programme.

Local authority

Bath and North East Somerset*
Bexley
Bracknell Forest*
Brighton and Hove
Bromley
Buckinghamshire*
Bury
Calderdale
Cheshire East
Cheshire West and Chester
City of London
Cornwall*
Cumbria
Dorset*
Dudley
East Riding of Yorkshire
East Sussex*
Gloucestershire*

Harrow*
Herefordshire*
Isle of Wight
Isles of Scilly
Lincolnshire
Medway
Merton
Central Bedfordshire
Milton Keynes
North Somerset*
North Yorkshire*
Northamptonshire
Northumberland
Oxfordshire
Reading
Redbridge*
Richmond upon Thames*
Rutland*
Shropshire*
Slough
South Gloucestershire*
Southend-on-Sea*
Stockport
Surrey
Sutton*
Swindon
Thurrock
Torbay*
Trafford
Warwickshire
West Berkshire*
West Sussex*
Wiltshire
Windsor and Maidenhead*
Wirral*
Wokingham*
York*

The DCSF remains committed to the aim of BSF to provide 21st-century teaching and learning facilities for all secondary pupils and staff in England. The following link includes information on the indicative reprioritisation of BSF based on the revised expressions of interest provided in November 2008 by all authorities with projects in waves 7 to 15 of BSF.

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/resourcesfinanceandbuilding/bsf/rnp/

On current timescales it is expected that all local authorities will have completed, or be in the final stages of their BSF projects by 2020.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what measures are in place to ensure that schools being constructed under his Department's Building Schools for the Future programme have high-calibre facilities for education in science, engineering and technology. [309300]

Mr. Coaker: The aim of Building Schools for the Future (BSF), the largest capital investment programme for 50 years, is to provide world-class teaching and learning environments across the whole curriculum, including science, engineering and technology. We have a number of measures in place to support this, including:

PfS standard contract documents

The 'Facilities and Services Output Specification (Design Brief)' includes design standards and references for all curriculum subjects. For more information on BSF standard documents, see:

www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/library/library.jsp

Design guidance: Building Bulletin 80

'Science Accommodation for Secondary Schools' and Building Bulletin 81: 'Design and Technology Accommodation for Secondary Schools' provide detailed design guidance on space standards, services, furniture and equipment. For more information on the Department's design guidance see:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolbuildings/

Exemplar designs

Project Faraday has developed exemplar designs for school laboratories to meet the needs of 21st century practical science teaching. These exemplar projects, many of which are already built, will inform and inspire all those involved in BSF. For more information on Project Faraday see:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolbuildings/

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare settings based at college and universities have closed in each quarter of each of the last five years. [305334]

Mr. Coaker: These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 December 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

I am able to provide you with the number of childcare providers based at colleges and universities which have closed in each quarter, since quarter four of 2008. Prior to this, we did not record whether childcare settings were on college or university sites.

Quarter	*Period*	*Number of childcare providers closed*
Q4 2008	1 October 2008 to 31 December 2008	0
Q1 2009	1 January 2009 to 31 March 2009	0
Q2 2009	1 April 2009 to 30 June 2009	2
Q3 2009	1 July 2009 to 30 September 2009	3

All data have been retrieved from Ofsted's database as of 4 December 2009.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both houses.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who was responsible for drawing up guidance notes for the barring decision making process published in February 2009 by the Board of the Independent Safeguarding Authority; which external bodies were consulted in the preparation of the guidance; how many civil servants from which Departments were involved; what legal advice was sought concerning the guidance; and from whom. [307245]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Board of the Independent Safeguarding Authority was responsible for the drawing up of the guidance notes for the barring decision making process with input from advisors and support from ISA staff. The Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) engaged in discussions with over sixty stakeholders and held meetings in October 2008 and January 2009. Stakeholders included the Department for Health, Department for Children Schools and Families, General Social Care Council, General Medical Council, General Teaching Council and the Royal College of Nursing. Civil servants were not involved in the development of the Process or the Guidance as barring decisions are a matter for the ISA. They were included in the consultation process. The Process and Guidance was developed with the close involvement of the Board's legal adviser who is provided by the Treasury Solicitor.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people have contacted Ofsted's safeguarding children whistleblower hotline in each month since its inception. [307577]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 16 December 2009:

Your recent parliamentary questions have been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

Since 1 April 2009, Ofsted has received 1,292 calls to its whistleblower hotline. Most of these calls were not actually "whistleblowing", defined as the disclosure of employer malpractice by an employee. Of the 1,292 calls, 26 calls qualified as whistleblowing disclosures under Ofsted's whistleblower procedures. The other calls were either general queries or were complaints about providers, which were not whistleblowing as such, for example a parent making a complaint about a childcare provider.

In addition to calls on the hotline, Ofsted has received 15 whistleblowing disclosures by email and 24 disclosures by letter.

The table at the end of this letter gives a break down of the number of calls by month since the hotline's inception.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Total number of calls received by Ofsted's whistleblower hotline

Month	*Number of calls*
April	151
May	126
Jun	148
July	159
August	61
September	172
October	232
November	243
Total	1,292

Class Sizes: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size in schools in Preston was in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [308668]

Mr. Coaker: The average class size of maintained primary schools in Preston was 28.4 in 1997 and 25.3 in 2009; the figures for state funded secondary schools were 21.7 and 20.2 respectively.

Classroom Assistants: South East

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent teaching assistants there were in *(a)* maintained nurseries, *(b)* primary schools, *(c)* secondary schools, *(d)* special schools and *(e)* pupil referral units in each education authority in the South East in each of the last five years. [305611]

Mr. Coaker: The following tables provide the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained schools in each local authority in the South East Government office region, in each January from 2005 to 2009 broken down by phase of education.

Full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools[1] by phase of education, South East Government office region, January 2005 to 2009

	Nursery					*Primary*				
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
South East	240	260	250	310	320	13,820	13,190	14,280	15,650	16,130
Bracknell Forest	—	—	—	—	—	150	120	150	140	180
Windsor and Maidenhead	20	20	20	20	20	140	160	190	210	210
West Berkshire	10	10	10	10	10	300	250	210	240	390
Reading	30	20	30	30	30	190	120	150	200	330
Slough	40	40	40	50	50	340	330	340	420	480
Wokingham	10	10	10	10	10	240	240	250	280	310
Buckinghamshire	10	10	10	10	10	530	650	660	740	680
Milton Keynes	—	10	—	10	10	300	360	400	530	610
East Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	830	690	790	860	840
Brighton and Hove	10	10	10	—	—	240	260	290	460	480
Hampshire	20	30	40	50	50	2,170	2,030	2,140	2,240	2,340
Portsmouth	—	—	10	—	10	430	400	400	460	460
Southampton	10	10	10	10	—	440	420	450	430	360

Full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants in service in local authority maintained schools[1] by phase of education, South East Government office region, January 2005 to 2009

	Nursery					Primary				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Isle of Wight	—	—	—	—	—	170	150	200	240	190
Kent	—	—	—	—	10	3,090	2,810	3,190	3,160	3,120
Medway	—	—	—	—	—	630	570	620	560	530
Oxfordshire	30	30	30	30	40	920	820	870	1,140	1,320
Surrey	30	30	20	50	50	1,790	1,740	1,860	1,880	1,830
West Sussex	30	30	20	30	30	930	1,080	1,150	1,400	1,460

	Secondary[1]					Special				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
South East	5,140	5,560	5,760	6,000	6,290	2,960	3,100	3,360	3,380	3,660
Bracknell Forest	40	50	30	50	60	10	50	50	60	60
Windsor and Maidenhead	120	120	100	130	130	30	30	40	30	40
West Berkshire	150	140	150	190	190	70	80	90	100	110
Reading	60	50	50	60	50	30	40	40	70	80
Slough	70	80	90	100	90	60	60	70	90	110
Wokingham	100	100	100	120	130	30	30	40	60	70
Buckinghamshire	210	250	280	320	340	200	170	210	250	260
Milton Keynes	160	180	220	250	260	50	110	130	150	160
East Sussex	360	440	420	430	430	180	190	210	240	230
Brighton and Hove	110	110	130	160	180	100	130	110	110	120
Hampshire	640	700	710	700	760	420	420	510	440	520
Portsmouth	140	150	150	170	150	240	80	130	150	130
Southampton	130	150	160	130	120	70	70	60	60	20
Isle of Wight	210	210	210	250	230	60	60	80	80	80
Kent	1,100	1,100	1,210	1,130	1,240	630	710	700	630	760
Medway	220	250	230	250	260	90	110	110	120	120
Oxfordshire	520	590	590	590	570	190	170	240	180	180
Surrey	450	510	520	550	640	320	430	410	330	320
West Sussex	350	390	410	430	450	170	150	140	230	300

	Pupil referral unit					Total all schools[1]				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
South East	230	250	280	370	400	22,400	22,360	23,930	25,710	26,790
Bracknell Forest	10	10	10	—	—	210	220	240	250	300
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	—	—	10	10	300	330	350	390	410
West Berkshire	10	10	10	10	10	530	490	470	550	710
Reading	10	10	10	20	20	320	250	280	440	510
Slough	10	20	10	10	20	530	530	550	680	750
Wokingham	—	—	—	—	—	380	380	410	480	520
Buckinghamshire	10	10	10	20	10	950	1,100	1,180	1,320	1,300
Milton Keynes	10	20	20	20	10	530	680	770	960	1,050
East Sussex	—	10	10	—	10	1,380	1,330	1,380	1,530	1,510
Brighton and Hove	—	—	—	—	—	460	510	540	740	780
Hampshire	30	30	40	40	60	3,280	3,210	3,430	3,470	3,740
Portsmouth	20	20	20	—	—	830	660	710	780	750
Southampton	10	20	10	20	20	660	660	680	660	520
Isle of Wight	10	10	10	10	20	450	430	500	580	510
Kent	30	40	40	100	100	4,860	4,660	5,140	5,020	5,220
Medway	20	10	30	20	20	960	930	990	950	920
Oxfordshire	10	10	20	20	30	1,670	1,630	1,750	1,960	2,140
Surrey	30	30	20	30	30	2,610	2,720	2,840	2,830	2,870
West Sussex	10	10	10	30	30	1,480	1,660	1,730	2,110	2,270

[1] Excludes academies and city technology colleges.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Annual Survey of Teachers in Service and Teacher Vacancies, 618g

Common Assessment Framework

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which children's services authorities have not yet been inspected under the Common Assessment Framework; [304658]

(2) which children's services authorities will be inspected under the Common Assessment Framework in the next six months. [304659]

Mr. Coaker: These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 9 December 2009:

Your recent parliamentary questions have been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The Common Assessment Framework is a standardised approach, used at local level, to conducting individual assessments of children's additional needs and deciding how these should be met. The new system for assessing local authority children's services is the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), which came into place from 1 April 2009. I have assumed your questions relate to the latter.

Under the arrangements for CAA, all local authority children's services have been assessed by Ofsted and received an annual rating for 2009. The ratings, based on a four-point scale, have been published in a letter for each of the 152 local authorities, which is available to view on the Ofsted website. This annual rating of children's services will also form part of the joint inspectorate CAA area and organisational assessments for each of the 152 local authorities, which have now been published on the 'oneplace' website.

Ofsted also introduced unannounced visits to front-line social care services for children and young people from 1 June 2009. As of 7 December 2009, 29 reports have been published and the list can be found in full in Table A at the end of this letter. By the end of June 2010 all local authority children's services will have been subject to such an inspection.

In addition, a three-year programme of full inspections of local authority services for safeguarding and looked after children began in June 2009. As of 7 December 2009, nine local authorities have been inspected. The local authorities are listed in Table B at the end of this letter and the reports have been published on the Ofsted website. Local authorities are given no more than two weeks' notice of an inspection and it would therefore be inappropriate to list the authorities due for inspection in the next six months.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

The 29 local authorities already inspected under the unannounced visits to front-line social care services for children and young people since June 2009.

Bradford
Bristol
Camden
Derbyshire
Essex
Hammersmith and Fulham
Hampshire
Hertfordshire
Kirklees
Knowsley
Lambeth
Lancashire
Leicester City
Lincolnshire
Northamptonshire
Nottinghamshire
Peterborough
Plymouth
Reading
Rotherham
Salford
Sefton
Sheffield
Slough
Surrey
Thurrock
Trafford
West Sussex
Wokingham

The nine local authorities already inspected as part of the three-year programme of full inspections of local authority services for safeguarding and looked after children since June 2009.

Blackpool
Cambridgeshire
Cornwall
Devon
Hillingdon
Hounslow
N. Yorkshire
Staffordshire
Warrington

Co-operative Schools

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list for each local authority those Co-operative Schools registered with his Department; and if he will indicate what steps his Department has taken to encourage local authorities to expand this number. [307657]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 16 December 2009]:* Schools are required to notify the Department's School Organisation Unit if they have changed their status and/or acquired a Trust, but the Department plays no role in decisions on individual cases. According to our records the following schools in the listed local authorities have become co-operative Trust schools.

Local authority	*School*
Central Bedfordshire	Samuel Whitbread Community College Derwent Lower School Etonbury Middle School Gothic Mede Lower School Hitchmead Special School Langford Lower School Robert Bloomfield Middle School
Thurrock	St. Clere's School
Suffolk	Orwell High School Deben High School
Southampton	Upper Shirley High School

Local authority	*School*
Plymouth	Lipson Community College
Dorset	Wey Valley School, The Wyvern Special School
Telford and Wrekin	The Sutherland School
Kingston Upon Hull	Andrew Marvell Business and Enterprise College
Doncaster	Campsmount Technology College
Bradford	Nab Wood School
Stockport	Reddish Vale Technology College
Wirral	Bebington High Sports College
Blackburn with Darwen	Blakewater College
Bolton	Lever Park School
Cheshire East	Alsager School Alsager Highfields Primary School Excalibur Primary School Pikemere Primary School
Oldham	Hathershaw College of Technology and Sport, The Broadfield Primary School

It is for the Governing Body of a school—not the local authority—to determine whether or not to acquire a Trust, and to decide which partners it wishes to work with.

However, to access the support funding and advice and guidance on the technical processes around acquiring a trust, schools can submit an Expression of Interest to the Trust Schools Programme.

The Co-operative is also sponsoring academies in Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent that are due to open in September 2010.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16 year olds completed a BTEC First Diploma in each subject in each of the last five years. [303303]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of 16-year-olds in England who completed a BTEC First Diploma in each subject in each of the last five years for which information is available.

BTEC First Diploma awards achieved by those with an academic age of 16 in England, 2003/04 to 2007/08

	Year in which qualification was achieved				
Qualification Title: EDEXCEL Level 2 BTEC First Diploma	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
For ICT Practitioners	0	0	0	2,847	3,456
For IT Practitioners (General)	598	1,169	1,465	7	0
For IT Practitioners (ICT Systems Support)	107	207	332	0	0
For IT Practitioners (Software Development)	188	224	297	*	0
In Agriculture	75	72	102	98	103
In Animal Care	795	906	951	1,079	1,176
In Applied Science	87	208	346	658	782
In Art and Design	0	521	1,743	2,906	3,274
In Business	307	949	1,992	3,515	4,790
In Caring	561	1,018	385	*	0
In Children's Care, Learning and Development	0	0	0	803	991
In Construction	50	130	338	523	532
In Countryside and Environment	79	92	152	148	162
In Design	587	790	561	3	0
In Early Years	439	628	936	7	0
In Electronics	130	156	240	0	0
In Engineering	0	0	0	1,020	1,205
In Fish Husbandry	27	47	42	42	50
In Floristry	6	8	14	18	23
In Front Line Services	0	0	0	0	0
In Health and Social Care	0	0	1,524	3,296	4,058
In Horse Care	245	284	258	279	289
In Horticulture	138	108	156	172	182
In Hospitality	0	16	88	143	169
In Land-based Technology	0	0	0	33	34
In Logistics	0	0	4	0	20
In Manufacturing Engineering	479	556	690	7	11
In Media	232	868	1,182	1,501	1,718
In Music	0	0	0	822	1,001
In Operations and Maintenance Engineering	71	89	113	0	*
In Performing Arts	1,644	2,048	2,425	1,735	1,737
In Public Services	1,674	2,176	2,563	2,892	3,310
In Retail	*	27	111	139	241
In Sport	1,489	2,248	2,827	4,147	4,246
In Sport and Exercise Sciences	630	604	601	7	10
In Travel and Tourism	231	933	1,361	1,595	1,981
In Vehicle Service and Technology	216	196	205	245	290
Total	11,086	17,278	24,004	30,689	35,843

Note:
Figures few than three and more than zero have been suppressed and replaced by *

Source:
National Information System for Vocational Qualifications.

GCSE: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in Nottingham North constituency obtained five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics in (a) 1997 and (b) 2009. [308989]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given for 1996/97 and 2007/08. Data for 2008/09 will not be available until after the publication of the Achievement and Attainment Tables in mid January 2010.

Pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools in Nottingham North constituency achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalent[1] at grades A-C including English and Maths GCSEs, 1996/97 and 2007/08[2]*

	Number of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A-C including English and Maths GCSEs*	*Percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Maths GCSEs*
1996/97	164	12.8
2007/08	353	28.2

[1] Figures for 1997/98 include GNVQ equivalences. Figures for 2007/08 include other equivalences approved for use pre-16.

[2] Figures for 1997/98 are based on pupils aged 15 years old at the start of the academic year. Figures for 2007/08 onwards are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.

Source:

National Pupil Database and Achievement and Attainment Tables (final data)

GCSE: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in Preston schools gained five A* to C GCSEs or equivalent in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [308665]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following table for 1996/97 and 2007/08. Data for 2008/09 will not be available until after the publication of the Achievement and Attainment Tables in mid January 2010.

Pupils at the end of key stage 4 in maintained schools in Preston constituency achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalent[1] at grades A-C, 1996/97 and 2007/08[2]*

	Number of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A-C*	*Percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C*
1996/97	306	32.7
2007/08	404	55.5

[1] Figures for 1997/98 include GNVQ equivalences. Figures for 2007/08 include other equivalences approved for use pre-16.

[2] Figures for 1997/98 are based on pupils aged 15-years-old at the start of the academic year. Figures for 2007/08 onwards are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.

Source:

National Pupil Database and Achievement and Attainment Tables (final data)

Hotels

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills has spent on hotel accommodation for its officials in each of the last five years. [306040]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 December 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Figures for 2006/07 and 2007/08 are not available from the current financial system and would need to be retrieved from archived data. Retrieval of this data would only be possible at disproportionate costs.

Ofsted expenditure on hotel accommodation for its officials in the last three years was:

	£
2007/08	2,197,963.73
2008/09	2,373,804.91
2009/10	1,456,399.53

The 2009/10 figure is for the first eight months of the current financial year.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

National Academy of Parenting Practitioners: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated to the National Academy of Parenting Practitioners in each financial year since 2006-07. [305272]

Mr. Coaker: The Department has paid £8.76 million to the academy in 2007-08 when it was established, £8.24 million in 2008-09 and up to £10million has been allocated in 2009-10 of which £4.29 million has been paid to date.

National Curriculum Tests: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 14 year olds in Preston schools reached level 5 or above in key stage 3 results in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [308666]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the following table for 1997 and 2008. Key stage 3 tests were discontinued after 2008.

Pupils at the end of key stage 3 in maintained schools in Preston constituency achieving level 5 or above, 1997 and 2008[1]

	English		*Maths*		*Science*	
	Number of pupils achieving level 5 or above	*Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above*	*Number of pupils achieving level 5 or above*	*Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above*	*Number of pupils achieving level 5 or above*	*Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above*
1997	489	50	488	49	476	48
2008[1]	456	65	473	68	454	65

[1] Figures for 2008 are based on updated data. 1997 figures are final.

Source:

National Pupil Database and Achievement and Attainment Tables

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 11 year olds in Preston schools reached level 4 or above in key stage 2 results in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [308667]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Pupils at the end of key stage 2 in maintained schools in Preston constituency achieving level 4 or above in key stage 2 tests, 1997 and 2009[1]

	Pupils achieving level 4 or above					
	English		Maths		Science	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1997	666	53	664	52	744	59
2009[1]	781	74	768	73	869	83

[1] Figures for 2009 are based on revised data. 1997 figures are final.

Source:

National Pupil Database and Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Ofsted

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any of Ofsted's three regional contractors themselves have contracts for the supply of goods and services to any of the organisations they are contracted to inspect. [305810]

Mr. Coaker: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 16 December 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Ofsted recognises that in contracting for inspection services there is a possibility of conflicts of interest and to mitigate this risk we have developed a protocol, which is supported by registers of interest, submitted by each of our Inspection Services Providers (ISPs). The protocol can be found on Ofsted's website.

If an ISP has a conflict of interest with an organisation it is contracted to inspect, responsibility for that inspection will be transferred to a different ISP. In the event that all three ISPs are deemed to have a conflict of interest, the inspection or regulatory activity will be carried out exclusively by HMI.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the experience of each of Ofsted's three regional contractors in respect of each of the services and organisations for which they are contracted to inspect; for how long each has been contracted in each case; and what assessment he has made of their performance; [305993]

(2) with which organisations Ofsted has contracts for the delivery of its services in its *(a)* North, *(b)* Midlands and *(c)* Southern regions; [305994]

(3) for the inspection of which services and organisations Ofsted is responsible. [305812]

Mr. Coaker: These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and copies of her replies have been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 11 December 2009:

Your recent parliamentary questions have been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Contracts to Ofsted's three regional Inspection Service Providers were awarded in March 2009, following evaluation of competitive bids.

The evaluation criteria took into account the potential contractor's:

capacity to be a credible partner

ability to deliver requirements

methods to deliver high quality, user-focused inspections

approach to risk management

approach to business improvement

acceptance of baseline documentation

These criteria accounted for 60% of the overall evaluation score, and price/financial terms accounted for 40%. During the prequalification stage of the competitive tender, references about each of the bidders were sought to inform the evaluations and these references were refreshed as part of the evidence for the consideration of the final tenders.

Under the criterion Delivering Requirements, potential contractors were invited to show how, when recruiting and training inspectors and staff, they would deal with the skills and experiences needed for different remits and how they would ensure that the practitioners meet requirements in all remits.

On the basis of the evaluation Ofsted was content to award contracts as specified to CfBT Education Trust to cover the contract area for the North, Serco Education to cover the contract area for the Midlands and Tribal Group to cover the contract area for the South. These contracts are in place for the period from the start of the 2009/10 academic year up to the end of the academic year 2014/15.

Each contract is evaluated regularly to ensure that key performance indicators are being met. These evaluations are formally reviewed by senior managers in Ofsted and shared with the Inspection Service Provider.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 December 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) was established in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and since 1 April 2007, has had responsibility for the inspection of the following services and organisations:

education in all maintained schools in England and schools run by Service Children's Education abroad

education in approximately half of independent schools and boarding in all schools which provide it

Early Years and childcare provision

Children's homes, secure children's homes and secure training centres - welfare, and also education where this is also provided

residential family centres

adoption and fostering, including local authority and voluntary adoption agencies, independent fostering agencies, local authorities' private fostering arrangements

learning and training in the post-16 sector including colleges, work-based learning, adult and community learning, and nextstep

contracted employment provision for the Department of Work and Pensions

initial teacher education and further education teacher training

education and training in prisons and other secure establishments the Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service (CAFCASS)

services for child protection, safeguarding and looked after children in local authorities.

Ofsted also:

has responsibility for regulation and registration of childcare and children's social care

assesses the overall performance of children's services in local authorities

evaluates serious case reviews

monitors independent schools inspectorates.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and placed in the library of both Houses.

Pre-School Education: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children aged *(a)* three and *(b)* four years in Nottingham North constituency are in free nursery places. [308293]

Dawn Primarolo: The available figures are in the table.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1] [2] [3] filled by three and four-year olds. Parliamentary constituency: Nottingham North. Position in January

	Number of three-year-olds	*Number of four-year-olds*
2009	1,300	1,300

[1] A place is equal to 12.5 hours (five sessions) and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

[3] Age of all children taken at 31 December 2008.

Source:

Early Years Census and School Census

The Department publishes information on the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in maintained, private, voluntary and independent providers. This is derived by counting children taking up 12 and a half hours per week as one place, 10 hours per week as 0.8 places, seven and a half hours per week as 0.6 places, five hours per week as 0.4 places and two and a half hours per week as 0.2 places.

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Pupil Referral Units he has visited since his appointment; and on what date each such visit took place. [305351]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 8 December 2009]:* The Secretary of State visited Knowsley Skills Academy on 16 September 2009. Knowsley Skills Academy is one of 12 alternative provision pilots, part of the action we are taking forward to implement the White Paper on alternative provision, "Back on Track" published in May 2008.

Pupils: Assessment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what qualifications are equivalent to one or more GCSE passes; and if he will make a statement. [305997]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 5 January 2010]:* All level 2 qualifications approved under section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 contribute towards the reported performance of pupils at key stage 4 in obtaining GCSEs and equivalent qualifications.

An exhaustive list of equivalent qualifications and the size of their contributions to the five A*-C grade GCSE or equivalent threshold can be found at QCDA's National Database of Accredited Qualifications website at:

http://www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk

in the "performance measures" section under the entry for each qualification.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was provided per pupil in the maintained sector for *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) England, (ii) the South West Region and (iii) each local authority within the South West Region in each year from 1997 to 2009. [307365]

Mr. Coaker: Per pupil revenue funding figures for primary school pupils (ages three to 10) for England, the South West Region, and each local authority in the South West of England between 1997-98 and 2005-06 are shown in table 1. These figures are in real terms and are based on financial years.

Table 1

									Real terms revenue funding per pupil (£)—SSA/EFS plus grants
	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
England	2,680	2,790	2,980	3,230	3,430	3,520	3,740	3,860	4,100
South West	2,570	2,670	2,840	3,070	3,220	3,290	3,470	3,560	3,790
Bath and North East Somerset	2,400	2,540	2,710	2,940	3,090	3,140	3,330	3,420	3,660
Bournemouth	2,730	2,740	2,890	3,140	3,230	3,270	3,410	3,490	3,700
Bristol, City of	2,580	2,690	2,880	3,130	3,330	3,490	3,690	3,850	4,130
Cornwall	2,490	2,720	2,900	3,140	3,330	3,400	3,580	3,670	3,890
Devon	2,670	2,750	2,870	3,100	3,250	3,310	3,530	3,610	3,820
Dorset	2,610	2,650	2,810	3,030	3,180	3,230	3,370	3,480	3,670
Gloucestershire	2,520	2,630	2,820	3,050	3,210	3,270	3,430	3,500	3,730
North Somerset	2,460	2,600	2,790	3,010	3,140	3,190	3,400	3,490	3,740
Plymouth	2,700	2,780	2,920	3,140	3,270	3,360	3,490	3,580	3,810

Table 1

Real terms revenue funding per pupil (£) SSA/EFS plus grants

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Poole	2,620	2,620	2,750	2,950	3,100	3,140	3,260	3,290	3,550
Somerset	2,530	2,640	2,830	3,070	3,230	3,290	3,470	3,570	3,770
South Gloucestershire	2,380	2,520	2,710	2,900	3,040	3,090	3,270	3,360	3,600
Swindon	2,650	2,660	2,780	3,000	3,160	3,200	3,460	3,540	3,800
Torbay	2,720	2,750	2,880	3,120	3,260	3,280	3,450	3,540	3,760
Wiltshire	2,570	2,660	2,830	3,050	3,200	3,260	3,520	3,600	3,820

Notes:

1. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 9 December 2009.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DFES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged three to 10 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those authorities in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004-05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004-05). There will be a consequential reduction in DFES grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006-07 and 2007-08 or 2006-07 to 2008-09, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three-year-old maintained pupils and estimated three to four-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.
7. 1997-98 figures for authorities subject to local government reorganisation in that year have been estimated, pro-rata to their post LGR figures.

Per pupil revenue funding figures for secondary school pupils (ages 11-15) for England, the South West Region, and each local authority in the South West of England between 1997-98 and 2005-06 are shown in table 2. These figures are in real terms and are based on financial years.

Table 2

Real terms revenue funding per pupil (£) SSA/ EFS plus grants

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
England	3,660	3,760	3,900	4,230	4,460	4,560	4,640	4,840	5,040
South West	3,450	3,550	3,670	3,950	4,120	4,210	4,280	4,470	4,660
Bath and North East Somerset	3,250	3,350	3,530	3,790	3,920	3,980	4,120	4,300	4,490
Bournemouth	3,490	3,580	3,680	3,970	4,150	4,230	4,240	4,410	4,610
Bristol, City of	3,660	3,760	3,880	4,300	4,550	4,620	4,880	5,170	5,510
Cornwall	3,560	3,660	3,780	4,050	4,230	4,330	4,280	4,470	4,670
Devon	3,520	3,620	3,730	3,980	4,130	4,210	4,220	4,400	4,600
Dorset	3,370	3,460	3,590	3,870	4,050	4,130	4,150	4,360	4,520
Gloucestershire	3,390	3,480	3,630	3,920	4,070	4,150	4,220	4,380	4,570
North Somerset	3,350	3,480	3,630	3,900	4,040	4,130	4,250	4,440	4,670
Plymouth	3,490	3,590	3,720	4,020	4,180	4,290	4,350	4,560	4,770
Poole	3,320	3,410	3,510	3,740	3,940	4,040	4,160	4,380	4,490
Somerset	3,450	3,540	3,670	3,950	4,120	4,220	4,310	4,520	4,660
South Gloucestershire	3,290	3,380	3,510	3,740	3,880	3,960	4,130	4,340	4,530
Swindon	3,410	3,500	3,620	3,880	4,020	4,130	4,300	4,480	4,720
Torbay	3,540	3,610	3,730	4,020	4,180	4,290	4,340	4,500	4,700
Wiltshire	3,420	3,510	3,650	3,920	4,080	4,150	4,230	4,390	4,580

Notes:

1. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 9 December 2009.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DFES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 11-15 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those authorities in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004-05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004-05). There will be a consequential reduction in DFES grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006-07 and 2007-08 or 2006-07 to 2008-09, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three-year-old maintained pupils and estimated three to four-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.
7. 1997-98 figures for authorities subject to local government reorganisation in that year have been estimated, pro-rata to their post LGR figures.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in table 3 as follows are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 (in tables 1 and 2 above) because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2008-09 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06 (the baseline); as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

Per pupil revenue funding figures for pupils (ages three to 15) for England, the South West Region, and each local authority in the South West of England between 2005-06 and 2008-09 are shown in table 3. As the D[illegible] is a mechanism for distributing funding, a split between primary and secondary schools is not available. These figures are in real terms and are based on financial years.

Table 3

	Real terms revenue funding per pupil (£)—DSG plus grants			
	2005-06 (baseline)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
England	4,340	4,470	4,640	4,690
South West	4,040	4,170	4,310	4,480
Bath and North East Somerset	4,120	4,240	4,370	4,430
Bournemouth	4,040	4,150	4,290	4,300
Bristol, City of	4,710	4,890	5,040	5,050
Cornwall	3,970	4,120	4,270	4,340
Devon	3,940	4,070	4,220	4,280
Dorset	4,070	4,160	4,300	4,350
Gloucestershire	3,980	4,110	4,260	4,370
North Somerset	4,030	4,120	4,250	4,310
Plymouth	4,200	4,340	4,500	4,540
Poole	3,990	4,090	4,230	4,250
Somerset	3,990	4,080	4,230	4,350
South Gloucestershire	3,880	3,970	4,110	4,150
Swindon	3,970	4,110	4,250	4,310
Torbay	4,170	4,280	4,440	4,460
Wiltshire	3,910	4,060	4,200	4,250

Notes:
1. This covers funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant, School Standards Grant, School Standards Grant (Personalisation) and Standards Fund as well as funding from the Learning and Skills Council; it excludes grants which are not allocated at LA level.
2. Price Base: Real terms at 2008-09 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 9 December 2009.
3. These figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 15.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £10.
5. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Schools

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools were closed in each local authority area in 2008-09. [305226]

Mr. Coaker: This requested information to answer *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools has been placed in the House Libraries.

Please note that there were no middle deemed primary school closures in 2009. Also there are 15 schools which are proposed to close on 31 December 2009 which have not been included in the Library figures but are shown in the following table for reference.

The schools which were included in preparing this answer were community, foundation, voluntary aided and voluntary controlled schools. This response does not include any special schools as they do not have a phase of education.

	Phase of education		
Local authority name	*Primary*	*Secondary*	*Total*
Barking and Dagenham	—	1	1
Birmingham	—	1	1
Harrow	1	—	1
Hounslow	4	—	4
Kent	2	—	2
Knowsley	—	2	2
Lancashire	—	1	1
Northamptonshire	1	—	1
Somerset	2	—	2
Grand total	10	5	15

Source:
EduBase 2

Schools: Gloucestershire

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the schools capital project budget is for Gloucestershire in 2009-10. [308139]

Mr. Coaker: The schools' capital budget for Gloucester for 2009-10 is set by the local authority in accordance with asset management plans prepared locally. The budget is determined by allocations from the Department and any resources available locally, which can include brought forward reserves.

Allocations made by the Department to Gloucestershire in the financial year 2009-10 are set out in the following table, including funds advanced from 2010-11 to 2009-10. The local authority has considerable flexibility in deciding how these are used.

Description	*£ million*
14-19 Diplomas Pathfinder projects	1.3
Basic Need—for school expansion	9.2
Devolved Formula Funding—prioritised at school level	17.2
Expansion of popular schools	0.9
ICT Harnessing Technology	2.7
Voluntary Aided Schools	3.7
Modernisation	6.4
Primary Schools	5.0
14-19 Diplomas, SEN and Disabilities	4.0
Small programmes	2.4
Total	52.8

Schools: Inspections

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools have been placed in an Ofsted category under the new inspection framework; [306283]

(2) how many schools have received a limiting judgement arising from safeguarding issues under the new Ofsted inspection framework. [306284]

Mr. Coaker: These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 10 December 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

The new maintained schools inspection framework was introduced in September 2009. In accordance with our pre-announced publications, information about all inspections taking place during the autumn term 2009/10 will be published on the third Wednesday in March 2010. Given the code of practice for official statistics, I will not, therefore, be able to provide you with a response to this question until that time.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Northampton

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on school improvements in Northampton *(a)* between 1979 and 1997 and *(b)* between 1997 and 2009. [308707]

Mr. Coaker: The Department has maintained central records of school capital allocations to local authorities from the financial year 1996-97. In the financial year 1996-97, Northamptonshire was allocated £7.5 million. In the 13 year period 1997-98 to 2009-10, the local authority has been allocated £612 million.

Expenditure on school improvements at local authority level may be slightly different, due to (a) other resources available locally and (b) timing differences resulting from procurement.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which schools inspected in 2009 to date have had their procedures for safeguarding rated as inadequate; and if he will make a statement; [303727]

(2) which schools have been graded as inadequate by Ofsted in relation to the quality of safeguarding since September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [304737]

Mr. Coaker: These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 3 December 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response. The latest period for which published figures are available is the academic year 2008/09. This answer, therefore, takes into account all inspections carried out between 1 January 2009 and 31 August 2009. Information about inspections taking place during the autumn term 2009/10 will be published in March 2010.

Between 1 January 2009 and 31 August 2009, 31 schools did not meet the safeguarding standard set out in the school inspection framework.

From September 2005 to September 2009, the school inspection framework included the judgement 'Do procedures for safeguarding learners meet current government requirements?' and used a Yes or No grading. Table A provides a list of the 25 maintained schools inspected between 1 January and 31 August 2009 where their latest Ofsted inspection resulted in a judgement that the safeguarding procedures did not meet the current government requirements.

In September 2009, a new school inspection framework was introduced. The new framework includes a judgement about the effectiveness of safeguarding procedures on the four point scale: outstanding, good, satisfactory and inadequate. Ofsted carried out pilot inspections against this new framework during the academic year 2008/09. Table B provides a list of those maintained schools inspected under the new framework between 1 January and 31 August 2009 where their latest Ofsted inspection resulted in a judgement of inadequate for the effectiveness of safeguarding procedures.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Maintained schools not reaching the required standard for "Do procedures for safeguarding learners meet current Government requirements?" between 1 January and 31 August 2009

URN	*Phase of education*	*School name*	*Local authority*
101861	Nursery	South Acton Children's Centre	Ealing
116255	Primary	Hatch Warren Junior School	Hampshire
100148	Primary	Brooklands Primary School	Greenwich
102841	Primary	Wanstead Church School	Redbridge
103069	Primary	Oakhill Primary School	Waltham Forest
103071	Primary	The Beaumont School	Waltham Forest
103400	Primary	St. Clement's Church of England Primary School	Birmingham
104338	Primary	Priory Green Primary School	Wolverhampton
114469	Primary	Stafford Junior School	East Sussex
117917	Primary	Epworth Primary School	North Lincolnshire
118593	Primary	Rosherville Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School	Kent
120612	Primary	The Spalding Parish Church of England Day School	Lincolnshire
122304	Primary	St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided First School	Northumberland
122683	Primary	Tollerton Primary School	Nottinghamshire
125023	Primary	Banstead Community Junior School	Surrey
126434	Primary	Bemerton St. John Church of England Aided Primary School	Wiltshire
131955	Primary	Hertsmere Jewish Primary School	Hertfordshire
134666	Primary	Chase View Community Primary School	Staffordshire
100196	Secondary	St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Comprehensive School	Greenwich
101558	Secondary	Copland—A Specialist Science Community College	Brent

Table A: Maintained schools not reaching the required standard for 'Do procedures for safeguarding learners meet current Government requirements?' between 1 January and 31 August 2009

URN	*Phase of education*	*School name*	*Local authority*
114599	Secondary	Portslade Community College	Brighton and Hove
122854	Secondary	Chilwell School	Nottinghamshire

Table A: Maintained schools not reaching the required standard for 'Do procedures for safeguarding learners meet current Government requirements?' between 1 January and 31 August 2009

URN	*Phase of education*	*School name*	*Local authority*
123939	Special	The Priory School	Somerset
133588	Pupil Referral Unit	Fenland Junction PRU	Cambridgeshire
135533	Pupil Referral Unit	Short Course Centre	Leicester

Table B: Maintained schools judged inadequate for 'The effectiveness of safeguarding procedures' between 1 January and 31 August 2009

URN	*Phase of education*	*School name*	*Local authority*
111394	Primary	Farnworth Church of England Controlled Primary School	Halton
113139	Primary	Southmead School	Devon
122569	Primary	Eastwood Junior School	Nottinghamshire
101559	Secondary	Kingsbury High School	Brent
121212	Secondary	Marshland High School	Norfolk
103025	Special	Sherwood Park School	Sutton

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 3 December 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for response.

In accordance with our pre-announced publications, information about all inspections taking place during the autumn term 2009/10 will be published on the third Wednesday in March 2010. Given the code of practice for official statistics, I will not, therefore, be able to provide you with a response to this question until that time.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Vernon Coaker MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and placed in the library of both Houses.

Schools: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* West Yorkshire are below the National Challenge benchmark following the 2009 GCSE results. [306620]

Mr. Coaker: Individual school results for the 2008/09 academic year are not available until the publication of the Achievement and Attainment Tables in January 2010.

Sure Start Programme

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects his Department to meet its target of 3,500 Sure Start children's centres. [305363]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We are on track to achieve our target of 3,500 children's centres by March 2010 for children under five and their families. Local authorities are responsible for rolling out children's centre programmes in their areas.

Teachers: Manpower

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* mathematics, *(d)* English, *(e)* biology and *(f)* history teachers who entered the profession in a state school in 2005 were still teaching in state schools in the last year for which figures are available. [307328]

Mr. Coaker: The data are not available in the format requested.

Full and part-time[1] teachers in local authority maintained sector service[2] who qualified in 2004, entered service in 2005 and were still in service in 2008, by subject of initial teacher training qualification, Coverage: England

Subject	*Remained in service 2008[3] (percentage)*
Physics	76
Chemistry	74
Mathematics	77
English	80
Biology	76
History	81

[1] Teachers in part-time service are under-recorded on the DTR by between 10 and 20 per cent. and therefore these figures may be slightly underestimated.

[2] The local authority maintained sector includes teachers in maintained nursery, primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units and excludes CTCs and academies.

[3] Figures are provisional estimates and are subject to change.

Note:

Those in service in 2007-08 will not all have been in continuous service between 2005 and 2008; some may have left and returned during the period.

Source:

Database of Teacher Records (DTR) and General Teaching Council for England.

Teachers: Qualifications

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers have (i) applied for and (ii) obtained the National Professional Qualification for Headship in each of the last 10 years. [306470]

Mr. Coaker: The National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services, who have run the National Professional Qualification for Headship since 2001, provided the following data:

	Primary (including nursery)		*Secondary*		*Other (inc. special, LA, independent, overseas)*		*Grand total*	
	APPS	*GRADS*	*APPS*	*GRADS*	*APPS*	*GRADS*	*APPS*	*GRADS*
2001	n/k	201	n/k	163	n/k	23	n/k	387
2002	2,426	1,726	1,549	920	201	141	4,176	2,787
2003	3,082	1,943	1,899	1,209	210	127	5,191	3,279
2004	3,121	2,294	2,031	1,368	164	177	5,316	3,839
2005	2,682	2,450	2,022	1,582	551	205	5,255	4,237
2006	2,487	2,492	1,702	1,662	473	255	4,662	4,409
2007	2,836	2,574	1,847	1,841	309	308	4,992	4,723
2008	1,178	2,356	337	1,428	300	223	1,815	4,007
2009	534	455	134	160	225	88	893	703
Total	18,346	16,491	11,521	10,333	2,433	1,547	32,300	28,371

Notes:

1. Data are unavailable for the period 1997-2000.
2. 2001 application figures not recorded.
3. 2009 figures only cover partial recruitment for this year as this is not yet completed.
4. NPQH takes 12 months to complete, so those starting in 2008 graduate in 2009

Young Offenders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many reparation orders relating to those aged *(a)* 10 or 11, *(b)* 12 to 14 and *(c)* 15 to 17 years old have been (i) given and (ii) breached in each year since 1997. [302442]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is as follows:

(i) The following tables show the number of reparation orders that have been given to young people by courts.

The presented data are broken down by financial years and by the following age groups: *(a)* 10 and 11, *(b)* 12 to 14 and *(c)* 15 to 17-years-old.

(ii) The Youth Justice Board does not hold the data on number of breaches in relation to reparation orders.

Complete data prior to financial year 2000/01 is not held by the YJB. Reparation orders were only introduced in pilot areas from 1998 and nationally from 2000.

	Reparation Orders			
	10-11	*12-14*	*5-17*	*Total*
2000-01	169	1,954	4,166	6,289
2001-02	230	2,875	5,524	8,629
2002-03	60	1,075	3,083	4,218
2003-04	39	938	2,791	3,768
2004-05	43	1,038	2,554	3,635
2005-06	36	1,201	2,802	4,039
2006-07	36	1,234	3,360	4,630
2007-08	42	1,275	3,691	5,008
Total	655	11,590	27,971	40,216

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Biofuels

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons he decided that grandfathering rights on the basis of those applied to offshore wind projects should not apply to regular biomass projects. [305181]

Mr. Kidney: 'Government Response to the Statutory Consultation on the Renewables Obligation Order 2009', published in December 2008, we set out our decision not to grandfather existing biomass and waste plants following evidence from the biomass industry:

> "that grandfathering existing stations at 1 ROC/MWh while banding up new stations would be detrimental to a competitive market for the fuel stock ... [as] existing plants could not have reasonably anticipated the introduction of banding, and made any contingency for this. We ... therefore decided to allow existing plants to be banded up and receive the same level of support as new plants. ... As the principle of banding has now been established we believe that there is less reason to treat biomass stations as a special case."

However, we are currently carrying out work with the Renewables Advisory Board, the Renewable Energy Association and biomass stakeholders to assess whether moves in biomass fuel prices might warrant such action at the next banding review starting October 2010.

Nia Griffith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to monitor the level of use of each source of biomass fuel. [307626]

Joan Ruddock: The Government publish statistics on the annual use of biomass fuel in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics. Chapter 7 provides a breakdown by source. Further information relating to fuel use by power plants registered for the renewables obligation is kept by Ofgem on their searchable Renewable and CHP Register at:

https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/Public/ReportManager.aspx?ReportVisibility=1&ReportCategory=0

In addition, the UK renewables obligation (RO) scheme introduced, on 1 April 2009, a reporting requirement to monitor the sustainability of biomass, including information such as country of origin of the fuel.

Buildings: Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the level of carbon emissions was from *(a)* housing and *(b)* other buildings in respect of (i) heating and cooling, (ii) hot water, (iii) lighting , (iv) appliances and (v) other sources in the latest year for which figures are available. [301943]

Joan Ruddock: For the UK household sector, total end-use emissions of carbon were just over 146.5 million tonnes of CO_2 ($MtCO_2$) in 2006, for which a breakdown of emissions per service is shown in Fig.1. Overall household sector carbon emissions in 2007 were just over 140.5 $MtCO_2$,but the breakdown by service is not yet available for that year.

Fig.1: Household carbon emissions by service in 2006

Service	*$MtCO_2$*
Space heating	66.7
Water heating	31.9
Cooking	5.1
Lights appliances and cooling[1]	41.8

[1] Of which lights contributed 8.4 $MtCO_2$; appliances 33.4 $MtCO_2$; and cooling 0.1 $MtCO_2$ (indicative estimates).

For non-domestic buildings, the most recent estimates available are for 2008. Fig.2 shows the breakdown of emissions per service. These figures, totalling 88.9 $MtCO_2$, include all energy use in public and commercial buildings and energy use for space heating and lighting in industrial buildings.

Fig.2: Non-domestic carbon emissions by service in 2008

Service	*$MtCO_2$*
Space heating and cooling	42.7
Hot water	4.7
Lighting	22.7
Appliances	11.5
Other	7.3

Carbon Emissions: Developing Countries

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to his Department's press release of 26 June 2009, Make or break time for our climate, what research was used in the development of the policy to establish a $100 billion fund to assist developing countries reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by 2020. [307601]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* We have drawn on analysis in various independent reports to calculate the scale of finance needed to tackle climate change in developing countries. The most recent, by Project Catalyst (a philanthropically funded project to develop analysis for the UNFCCC), put the total at €65-100 billion per year on average from 2010 to 2020 (€55-80 billion mitigation; €10-20 billion adaptation). The figure that the Prime Minister announced in a speech on 26 June 2009 of around $100 billion by 2020 is within this range. However, we also recognised that we must distinguish between research studies and the actual finance that countries might need for their low carbon and climate resilient growth and development. Therefore, we have proposed $100 billion a year by 2020 as a working figure for the world to focus on.

Carbon Emissions: Smoking

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate has been made of the effects of cigarette smoking on levels of carbon dioxide emissions. [306343]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have not made a detailed assessment of the effects of cigarette smoking on carbon dioxide emissions. As a plant product, the burning of tobacco is likely to result in zero net carbon dioxide emissions, although there will be other greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production and distribution of cigarettes.

Climatic Research Unit

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information the University of East Anglia Climate Research Unit has provided to his Department since its inception. [309170]

Joan Ruddock: DECC has no research or data-delivery contracts with the University of East Anglia Climatic Research Unit (CRU).

The Met Office, however, uses CRU's land temperature dataset, which is merged with sea surface temperatures to derive the global average temperature record. This is used in quarterly updates to DECC of global, regional and UK temperatures. A gridded version of this dataset is freely available from the Met Office Hadley Centre observations website.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on art works in the last 12 months. [306445]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has spent £5,000 on art works since its inception on 3 October 2008.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305684]

Joan Ruddock: DECC spent £667,526 refurbishing the 5th Floor of 3 Whitehall Place, which includes the ministerial offices. DECC is unable without incurring disproportionate cost to specifically identify the element related to offices allocated to Ministers.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertainment in the last 12 months. [305539]

Joan Ruddock: Accordingly to the Department's financial records the total amount spent on entertainment in the financial year 2008-09 was £184,000. It is not possible to separate out the cost for alcohol.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in each of the last three financial years. [303771]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change was formed on 3 October 2008.

Claims submitted by press officers for reimbursable expenses in the period October 2008 to March 2009 totalled £242.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear since its inception. [305515]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has spent *(a)* £2,695 on photoshoots and *(b)* £34,720 on production of videos for Ministers since its inception on 3 October 2008.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [301926]

Joan Ruddock: The Department has a Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor David Mackay. In addition, there are three independent committees that advise the Department on scientific and other matters. These are: the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (15 members); the Advisory Committee on Carbon Abatement Technologies (15 members); the Committee on Climate Change (eight members). The Department also receives advice from a number of other bodies. These include: Energy Technology Institute; Carbon Trust; and UK Energy Research Centre.

Currently there are 66 science and engineering posts in the Department.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305217]

Joan Ruddock: The Department does not hold this information centrally and it would take a disproportionate amount of time and cost to gather.

Departmental Training

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305895]

Joan Ruddock: Information regarding training is not held centrally; therefore to provide a response would entail a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307518]

Joan Ruddock: The information requested is not available centrally and could only be made available at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what percentage of parliamentary questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307540]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report,* column 926W. The percentage of named day questions answered on the day was 29 per cent.

Electricity

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effect on independent electricity producers of *(a)* the regime for the renewables obligation and *(b)* the redemption of renewables obligation certificates sourced from the co-firing of regular biomass set out on the draft Renewables Obligation Order. [307613]

Joan Ruddock: There are 4,542 generating stations accredited and provided with support under the RO as of 14 December 2009. Over 90 per cent. of these stations are not vertically integrated with electricity suppliers.

Some industry stakeholders have raised concerns that the cap on the co-firing ROC market restricts competition and disproportionately penalises independent co-firers who, they felt, were forced to participate in a partitioned marketplace, meaning they had to accept significant discounts in price for their ROCs.

We commissioned Oxera to look into these concerns. Their report suggested that in the long run the cap is unlikely to significantly affect the ROC market for co-firing. There were some short-term concerns but following consultation we considered these were outweighed by the potential detrimental effect on the ROC value for all renewables technologies. The Oxera Report suggests that not having a co-firing cap could lead to a decrease in ROC values which could impact investment and delay deployment of new biomass stations.

Their report and the Government response can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

Energy Efficiency Schemes

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what plans he has for the future of his Department's energy efficiency and lowest rate tariff schemes; [307274]

(2) what his most recent assessment is of the relationship between the performance of energy supply companies in meeting their obligations under his Department's energy efficiency and lowest rate tariff schemes and their market share; [307275]

(3) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of households which have received assistance from each energy supply company under his Department's energy efficiency and lowest rate tariff schemes; and what the cost to his Department of each such scheme has been to date. [307276]

Joan Ruddock: DECC set out the future of its energy efficiency schemes in the Low Carbon Transition Plan published July 2009, this included extending the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) (an obligation on energy suppliers to meet household carbon saving targets) to the end of 2012 before moving to a new framework post 2012. A consultation on the CERT extension will be published before Christmas and further details on delivery arrangements post 2012 will be published early in the new year.

The CERT is a GB-wide carbon saving obligation on energy suppliers so it is delivered at no cost to DECC. Ofgem reported in July 2009 that suppliers had made good progress towards their targets having achieved the following percentage savings against their individual obligations (the overall target is 185 million tonnes of lifetime CO_2 savings) by the end of the first year of CERT:

	Percentage
British Gas	54
EDF Energy	56
Npower	30
E.ON	55
Scottish and Southern Energy	49
Scottish Power	56

Reporting is by measure and not by household. Together, suppliers delivered a significant number of energy efficiency measures by the end of the first year of CERT including around 850,000 cavity wall insulation jobs, almost 1.5 million loft insulation jobs, 40,000 solid wall insulation jobs and some 200 million compact fluorescent lights.

The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) only commenced in September 2009, no households have yet received assistance. CESP runs to December 2012 and it is estimated that 90,000 households will benefit.

In the 2008 Budget the Chancellor announced an increase in suppliers' collective expenditure on their voluntary social programmes to at least £100 million in 2008-09, £125 million in 2009-10 rising to £150 million by 2011. Energy supplier's social tariffs are delivered at no cost to the Government.

Ofgem monitors the suppliers' social programmes on behalf of Government. In its latest report on suppliers' social programmes, published in August 2009, Ofgem confirmed that suppliers have each met the first year spend target as set by Government and that suppliers' collective expenditure totalled £157 million, which exceeded the Government set target for the first year of the agreement by 57 per cent. £130 million of this collective total expenditure was attributable to social tariffs. This report also detailed the number of customer accounts benefiting from a social tariff and the total savings to customers of these tariffs, per supplier, as at 31 March 2009. A copy of this report can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Monitoring_suppliers_social_spend_2008_09_final.pdf

The initial findings report of Ofgem's energy supply probe gave a snapshot of the total number of customer accounts per supplier, as at June 2008. A copy of the energy market probe initial findings report can be found online at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Markets/RetMkts/ensuppro/Documents1/Energy%20Supply%20Probe%20-%20Initial%20Findings%20Report.pdf

According to these reports the total savings to customers during 2008-09, customer accounts on a social tariff as at 31 March 2009 and total electricity and gas customers per supplier as at June 2008 is reported as:

Supplier	Energy type	Total savings to customers (£ million)	Total customer accounts on a social tariff as at 31 March 2009	Total customer accounts as at June 2008	Percentage of customer accounts on a social tariff[1]
British Gas	Electricity	—	193,148	6,038,464	—
	Gas	—	323,131	9,762,950	—
	Total	77.4	516,279	15,801,414	[2]3.3
EDF Energy	Electricity	—	99,073	3,605,090	—
	Gas	—	45,939	1,602,369	—
	Total	8.8	145,012	5,207,459	2.8
E.ON	Electricity	—	25,447	4,922,100	—
	Gas	—	23,608	2,913,408	—
	Dual Fuel	—	2,826	—	—
	Total	15.65	51,881	7,835,508	0.7
Npower	Electricity	—	65,251	4,047,020	—
	Gas	—	48,585	2,553,340	—
	Total	12.28	113,836	6,600,360	1.7
Scottish Power	Electricity	—	45,519	3,217,808	—
	Gas	—	29,003	1,919,852	—
	Total	1.5	74,522	5,137,660	1.5
SSE	Electricity	—	64,661	5,255,087	—
	Gas	—	—	3,255,123	—
	Dual Fuel	—	38,279	—	—
	Total	14.87	102,940	8,510,210	1.2
Total	Electricity	—	493,099	27,085,569	—
	Gas	—	470,266	22,007,042	—
	Dual Fuel	—	41,105	—	—
	Total	130	1,004,470	49,014,084	2

[1] As data for social tariffs and total customer accounts are not as at the same period of time these percentages should be treated as approximate.

[2] As Ofgem report on electricity, gas and dual fuel customer accounts on a social tariff in their social programmes report and on electricity and gas customer accounts in their the energy supply probe, initial findings report, we have only provided the percentage of total customer accounts per supplier on social tariff.

The Low Carbon Transition Plan also included an announcement that we will introduce social price support when the voluntary agreement ends in March 2011. We have since introduced clauses on social price support as part of the Energy Bill. We also announced in the pre-Budget report that we would require energy suppliers to make £300 million available per year by 2013-14 for social price support. This is double what they have agreed to provide in the final year of the voluntary agreement.

Energy: Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to the answer of 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1297W, on council tax: energy, if he will place in the Library a copy of each representation that the Energy Saving Trust has made to his Department on *(a)* council tax and energy efficiency and *(b)* controls on the sale or rent of homes which have a poor energy efficiency rating. [308664]

Joan Ruddock: A copy of each representation that the Energy Saving Trust has made to DECC concerning questions A and B will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Feed-in Tariffs

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his Department's proposed feed-in-tariffs scheme on the development of the UK's renewable industry sector. [307973]

Mr. Kidney: Effects of the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme have been identified in the impact assessment published on July 15 2009:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

This includes an assessment of the expected level of uptake under the lead FITs scenario (approximately 8TWh electricity in 2020 and approximately 870,000 installations by 2020).

The introduction of FITs should significantly increase the scale and scope of the GB market for small-scale renewable energy technologies and ancillary products compared to the status quo. UK manufacturing firms and product installers will benefit directly from this increase in demand. An increase in the uptake of certain technologies, such as small wind, where the UK has a manufacturing base, will create a particularly positive impact on job creation. Installations will also require maintenance and servicing which may have a positive impact on jobs. Overall, FITs are expected to boost business and employment opportunities in developing and deploying renewable energy technologies. These impacts have not been quantified.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his Department's proposed feed-in-tariffs scheme on *(a)* energy sector competition and *(b)* supplier diversity by (i) 2020 and (ii) 2030. [307974]

Mr. Kidney: The impact on small electricity suppliers has been taken into account during policy development in order that they are not disproportionately impacted. Furthermore, the introduction of feed-in-tariffs should significantly increase the scale and scope of the GB market for small-scale renewable energy technologies and ancillary products. UK manufacturing firms will benefit directly from this increase in demand, and market growth should increase competition effects, encouraging innovation, driving down prices and enhancing the global competitiveness of UK firms.

No assessment has been made of the effect of feed-in-tariffs on supplier diversity.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the interim metering arrangements will be in place for installations claiming feed-in-tariffs prior to the roll-out of smart meters. [307975]

Mr. Kidney: We will be publishing decisions relating to the design of the FITs scheme in early 2010. This will include metering arrangements from the start of the scheme.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consultative meetings he has had with *(a)* representatives of the renewables industry and *(b)* energy supply companies to discuss his Department's proposed feed-in-tariffs scheme. [307976]

Mr. Kidney: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State regularly meets with representatives of the renewable industry and the energy supply companies to discuss the Department's business.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely TWh levels of power from sub-5MW renewables supported by his Department's proposed Feed-in-Tariffs scheme produced in 2020 under the *(a)* 10 per cent. return on investment (ROI) scenario, *(b)* eight per cent. ROI scenario and *(c)* lead scenario. [307977]

Mr. Kidney: The feed-in-tariffs impact assessment included analysis on an 8 per cent. ROI scenario and a proposed lead scenario. Estimated TWh in 2020 were 10TWh and 8TWh respectively. A 10 per cent. ROI scenario was not modelled as part of the impact assessment. However, information on a 10 per cent. ROI scenario can be found in the element energy quantitative report (page 67) that accompanied the consultation document:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspxx

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of electricity prices in 2020, excluding the cost of his Department's proposed feed-in-tariffs scheme. [307978]

Mr. Kidney: Analysis for the low carbon transition plan estimates that the electricity price in 2020, excluding the proposed feed-in-tariffs scheme, to be around £161/MWh for the domestic sector (including VAT) and £127/MWh for medium industrial consumers.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what levels of *(a)* commercial sector and *(b)* energy service companies sector investment his Department estimates will be made under its proposed feed-in-tariffs scheme. [307979]

Mr. Kidney: Under the feed-in tariffs proposal that was consulted on in the summer, the number of installations deployed by the commercial sector is estimated to be approximately 55,000 by 2020 (as set out in the impact assessment:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx.

No estimates have been made for investment by energy service companies.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what 2020 standard electricity price assumption Element Energy were asked to use for his Department's proposed feed-in-tariffs scheme modelling; and what the rationale was for this price assumption. [307980]

Mr. Kidney: Electricity price assumptions used for the feed-in-tariffs (FITs) analysis are set out in the renewable energy strategy (RES) analytical annex which can be found at:

> http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/res/res.aspx

Consistent electricity price assumptions were used to model all policies covered by the RES, including FITs.

The following figures are taken from the various electricity price tables in the RES analytical annex:

Electricity 2020 p/kWh (2008 levels)	*Domestic retail price*	*Commercial/ service price*	*Industrial price*	*Variable element (social cost) domestic*	*Variable element (social cost) commercial*	*Variable element (social cost) industrial*
Low energy demand	12.8	10.1	8.6	4.8	4.6	4.5
Timely investment, moderate demand	16.4	13.4	11.9	8.1	7.9	7.8
High demand, producers' market power	18.4	15.4	13.9	10.1	9.9	9.7
High demand, significant supply constraints	20.6	17.4	15.9	11.5	11.3	11.1

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has used a range of standard electricity price scenarios in the Element Energy model for his Department's proposed feed-in-tariffs scheme; and what range of price assumptions has been used to 2020. [307981]

Mr. Kidney: Electricity price assumptions used for the feed-in tariffs (FITs) analysis are set out in the Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) analytical annex which can be found at:

> http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/res/res.aspx.

The analytical annex contains electricity price forecasts under the headings 'Low energy demand', 'Timely investment, moderate demand', 'High demand, producers' market power', and 'High demand, significant supply constraints'.

A number of electricity price scenarios were assessed and presented in the FITs impact assessment at:

> http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the likely differential cost to domestic consumers under his Department's proposed feed-in tariffs scheme in *(a)* 2015 and *(b)* 2020 under a 10 per cent. return on investment scenario, if the modelling includes future electricity price scenarios consistent with the trajectory of electricity price increases over the last 10 years. [307982]

Mr. Kidney: No estimate has been made of the impact of feed-in tariffs on domestic electricity bills under a 10 per cent. ROI scenario.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of the likely differential cost to domestic consumers under his Department's proposed feed-in tariffs scheme in *(a)* 2015 and *(b)* 2020 under a 10 per cent. return on investment scenario if the modelling includes future electricity price scenarios consistent with Ofgem's price projections, including the 60 per cent. increase by 2020 scenario. [307983]

Mr. Kidney: No estimate has been made of the impact of feed-in tariffs on domestic electricity bills under a 10 per cent. ROI scenario.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the financial effects upon participants in the Carbon Reduction Commitment of participation in his Department's proposed feed-in tariffs scheme. [307984]

Joan Ruddock: There are no financial implications (in terms of additional rewards or penalties) for participants in the Carbon Reduction Commitment who invest under DECC's proposed feed-in tariffs scheme. All electricity consumed by organisations captured by the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme will generally be treated as grid average, and organisations shall report emissions accordingly, except in cases where an organisation generates renewable electricity and does not claim subsidies through renewables obligations certificates or feed-in tariffs. In this special case there are effectively no emissions associated with the use of this electricity under the CRC scheme.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the effect of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (Energy Efficiency Scheme) on the large public and commercial sector take-up of renewables under his Department's proposed feed-in tariffs scheme. [307986]

Joan Ruddock: The CRC was always intended as an energy efficiency scheme and therefore incentivises energy efficiency and is neutral on the generation of energy. The CRC should be neutral in effect on the take up of renewable generation. CRC does not provide additional incentives beyond the renewables obligation on suppliers or the new feed-in tariff (FIT) scheme but is intended to sit alongside those policies and be complementary to them. The CRC is therefore neutral with respect to the uptake of the FIT scheme. The intended combination of these policies is to deliver both improved energy efficiency and a decarbonised electricity supply.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the inflation treatment will be of payments under his Department's proposed feed-in tariffs in relation to *(a)* the production tariff paid for all energy generated and *(b)* the export bonus where a minimum floor price of 5p kWh is proposed for power exported to the grid. [307987]

Mr. Kidney: Final decisions about inflation treatment have not been taken. Decisions will be published in the Government's response to the feed-in tariffs consultation.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the tax treatment of income under his Department's proposed feed-in tariffs scheme is for the *(a)* domestic sector, *(b)* commercial sector and *(c)* public sector. [307988]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: have been asked to reply.

As the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced at the 2009 pre-Budget report, households who use renewable technology to generate electricity mainly for their own use will not be subject to income tax on feed-in tariffs. Normal tax rules will apply in all other instances including for the commercial and public sector.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what definition his Department uses of the term fuel poverty; what changes to this definition there have been since 1997; whether he plans to change the current definition; and if he will make a statement. [308163]

Mr. Kidney: The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 defines a fuel poor person as one living on a lower income in a home which cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost.

The most widely accepted definition of a fuel poor household is one which needs to spend more than 10 per cent. of its net income to heat its home to an adequate standard of warmth (usually 21 degrees for the main living area, and 18 degrees for other occupied rooms).

There are no plans to review the definition of fuel poverty.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many families were in fuel poverty in each region in each of the last two years. [308164]

Mr. Kidney: Fuel poverty is measured at household level rather than on a family basis.

The Department's latest estimates for fuel poverty are for 2007, available online at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/fuelpov_stats/fuelpov_stats.aspx

The following table provides the number of households in fuel poverty for each English region in 2006 and 2007:

Number of households in fuel poverty

Thousand

Government office region	*2006*	*2007*
North East	179	206
East Midlands	236	272
East of England	224	253
London	254	309
North West	415	472
South East	291	333
South West	256	259
West Midlands	304	383
Yorkshire and the Humber	273	333
Total	2,432	2,819

Fuel Poverty: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of fuel poverty in Preston. [308579]

Mr. Kidney: The Department of Energy and Climate Change is responsible for national programmes aimed at reducing fuel poverty. The combination of Warm Front, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP), Decent Homes and local programmes delivered through local government, partnerships, energy suppliers, eaga and NEA (such as Warm Zones and the Community Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF)) are all important in tackling fuel poverty across regions of England.

The Warm Front scheme is the Government's main scheme for tackling fuel poverty and up to 30 November 2009 has delivered energy efficiency measures to 8,414 households in Preston since the year 2000. Additionally, over 438 benefit entitlement checks have been undertaken, identifying an average increase in income of £23.63 for those entitled to additional benefits.

The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) requires energy suppliers to meet at least 40 per cent. of their obligation by promoting and installing measures in the homes of a priority group of vulnerable consumers in receipt of qualifying benefits or people aged over 70 years. Measures are only reported at GB level and details at constituency level are not available. However, the Government are developing a voluntary agreement with suppliers for them to report CERT main measures into the Homes Energy Efficiency Database (HEED) maintained by the Energy Saving Trust; the Government hope to conclude negotiations shortly.

Housing: Insulation

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many companies have been investigated and removed from Government schemes for cavity wall insulation grants in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [306087]

Joan Ruddock: The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) is the Government's principal instrument for encouraging households to install insulation. However, CERT is not a Government managed scheme, but rather a carbon saving obligation placed by Government on energy supply companies with more than 50,000 customers. Suppliers meet their targets by promoting (typically through subsidised offers) and installing a mix of approved energy efficiency measures, including insulation measures. Energy suppliers each have their own contracts with insulation companies which are treated as commercial in confidence. A small amount of insulation activity is directly funded through the Government's flagship fuel poverty programme—Warm Front. However, no contractors have been removed in the last five years.

Low Carbon Transition Plan

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with the devolved Administrations to ensure co-ordination in implementation of the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan. [308572]

Joan Ruddock: Ministers and officials engage with the devolved Administrations on energy and climate change matters, particularly where there are implications for devolved policy or to ensure coordination and alignment of reserved matters with devolved policy. We also have a statutory obligation to consult the devolved Administrations on aspects relating to the Climate Change Act 2008, including on setting the levels of the carbon budgets and targets under the Act, and preparing policies for meeting them.

Since publication of the Low Carbon Transition Plan, this has included discussions between officials on renewable energy, heat and energy savings, the extension to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), Smart Meters and the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme.

National Grid

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with which companies his Department has discussed the development of a smart grid in the last six months. [302860]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has met with many companies to discuss smart grids over the last six months. This has included all distribution network operators, all transmission operators, ICT companies, a selection of electricity supply companies, equipment suppliers and relevant trade associations.

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which stakeholder groups his Department has *(a)* created and *(b)* consulted on the development of a smart grid in the last six months. [302861]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has set up and co-chaired with Ofgem a working group of the Electricity Networks Strategy Group to help develop a vision for a smart grid. This vision has informed Government thinking on smart grids.

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he last met *(a)* Ofcom and *(b)* Ofgem to discuss the establishment of a smart grid; and if he will make a statement. [302862]

Mr. Kidney: I have not met Ofcom or Ofgem to specifically discuss the establishment of a smart grid.

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what meetings with each stakeholder group he has had on the allocation of the bandwidth spectrum in respect of the development of a smart grid. [302873]

Mr. Kidney: I have not had any meetings with any stakeholder group on the allocation of the bandwidth spectrum in respect of the development of a smart grid.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has undertaken any research into the effect of the transmission charging regime on cross-border trade. [305736]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has not undertaken any research that looks specifically at the effect of the GB use of system transmission charging methodology on cross border trade.

Renewables Obligation: Biofuels

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what his policy is on the future allocation of renewable obligation certificates per unit of electricity produced by biofuels; [309166]

(2) whether he plans to review the allocation of renewable obligation certificates per unit of electricity produced by biofuels. [309167]

Mr. Kidney: The banding levels (number of renewables obligation certificates (ROCs) per megawatt hour) for all technologies will be reviewed periodically at specified dates. The first scheduled review is due to come into effect on 1 April 2013, with work beginning in October 2010. In the case of biofuels, this will also take account of the strategic assessment which the Government will be undertaking next year on priorities for the use of biomass.

Tidal Power: River Severn

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with relevant authorities in The Netherlands about the construction and subsequent impacts of the storm surge barrier on the Eastern Scheldt in The Netherlands; and what steps have been taken to apply lessons learnt there to the development of tidal power proposals for the Severn Estuary. [307586]

Mr. Kidney: The Eastern Scheldt storm surge barrier is one of a number of analogues reviewed as part of the Hydraulics and Geomorphology assessment within the Strategic Environmental Assessment of tidal power from the Severn Estuary. In 2008, at the invitation of the Severn tidal power feasibility study team, Dutch officials gave a presentation on the construction and subsequent impacts of the storm surge barrier.

In addition representatives from Deltares (an independent research institute for water, soil and subsurface issues based in The Netherlands) have attended a number of workshops on Hydraulics and Geomorphology as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment. They presented and led discussions on the geomorphological implications arising from the construction of the storm surge barrier. This evidence feeds into the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study.

Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* other Ministerial colleagues on the operation of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [308338]

Mr. Kidney: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular meetings with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other colleagues on a wide range of topics.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 6 January 2010

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* over-60 year olds and *(b)* disabled people in Nottingham North constituency made use of free off-peak bus travel in the latest period for which figures are available. [309025]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport does not maintain records of how many people in local authorities are in receipt of a concessionary bus pass as concessionary travel is administered locally by travel concession authorities (TCAs).

The last information held by the Department was that as of 17 April 2009, 69,597 of the new smartcard concessionary passes had been issued in Nottingham. This includes applications from disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department spent money on art works in the last 12 months. [308580]

Chris Mole: During the last 12 months the Department spent £1,804 on art works and associated equipment. A list of acquisitions has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Other works of art displayed in the Department for Transport London HQ buildings are from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions.

Information in respect of the Highways Agency can be provided only at disproportionate cost as it would require a full review of all claims and invoices. However, the Highways Agency have advised that they would not normally approve the spend of their funds on the procurement of works of art.

No works of art have been purchased by the other six Department for Transport Executive agencies during the last 12 months.

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307963]

Chris Mole: Information on the proportion of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt for the Department for Transport and its Agencies is only available from January 2009 as set out in the following table. Figures from January 2009 to May 2009 exclude Vehicle Certification Agency invoices.

	Invoices paid	*Invoices paid within 10 days*	*Percentage paid within 10 days*
January 2009	17,569	10,750	61.19
February 2009	17,248	11,283	65.42
March 2009	19,308	12,947	67.06
April 2009	22,302	12,685	56.88
May 2009	14,932	11,994	80.32
June 2009	18,490	15,313	82.82
July 2009	17,733	14,304	80.66
August 2009	16,431	14,379	87.51
September 2009	20,406	18,571	91.01
October 2009	21,306	19,813	92.99
November 2009	21,652	20,276	93.64

Current data on prompt payment are regularly updated on DfT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/procurement/dft/tenday2-091210.pdf

Departmental Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305208]

Chris Mole: The details for the Department of Transport and its Agencies are as follows: (all lines listed are operated, none are sponsored).

	Number of lines operated	*Calls received from November 2008 to October 2009*	*Alternative BT numbers*	*Comments*
DfT(Cent)	0	—	—	—
DVLA	0800 032 5202	111,723	See comments	0870 numbers not used since 1 September 2009 and have been replaced by 0300 numbers which are not for profit public sector numbers, and charged at standard geographic rate. Figures included as calls made within the last 12 months.
	0845 606 0160	21,021		
	0870 240 0009	5,154,664		

	Number of lines operated	Calls received from November 2008 to October 2009	Alternative BT numbers	Comments
	0870 240 0010	7,015,395		
	0870 660 0301	648,829		
	0870 241 1879	93,618		
	0870 608 0604	595,848		
	0870 850 0007	106,930		
	0870 850 0964	79,821		
	0870 850 1074	164,505		
	0870 850 2963	27,124		
	0870 850 3368	357,290		
	0870 850 4444	9,115,222		
	0845 602 2006	190		
HA	0845 750 4030	164,861	Yes	0845 750 4030 and 0870,122 6236 will shortly be changing to 0300 not for profit public sector numbers.
	0845 955 6575	39,304	Yes	
	0800 092 2325	2,485	No	
	0845 300 2330	2,426	No	
	0845 300 2331	1,632	No	
	0870 122 6236	4,484	No	
	0800 018 6969	Not available	No	
VOSA	0870 010 2067	8,372	No	Call volume figures only available from July 2009 onwards.
	0870 6060 440	597,243	Yes	
	0845 600 5977	4,780	No (0845 number is standard rate)	
	0800 030 4103	5,102	No (0800 number is Freephone)	
DSA	0	—	—	Only use 0300 numbers
MCA	1	2,704	Yes	Operates on a non-revenue basis at national rate.
VCA	0	—	—	Do have one 0844 number which will shortly move to 0300.
GCDA	1	440	No	—

Departmental policy is to now use 0300 numbers wherever possible.

Driving: Young People

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent educational programmes his Department has developed which are directed at young drivers; what steps his Department is taking to encourage the wearing of seat belts by young persons; and if he will make a statement. [308227]

Paul Clark: The THINK! road safety campaigns target all drivers including young drivers on topics such as driving under the influence of alcohol, drug driving, speeding, motorcycle awareness, seat belt wearing and mobile phone use.

A new seat belt campaign was launched in November 2008, designed to warn drivers and their passengers that without a seat belt they can be killed even at low speeds on short local journeys.

This followed research showing that people are least likely to wear a seat belt in these situations as they believe that they can either brace themselves or be saved by an airbag. The campaign ran on TV, radio, posters, petrol pumps, car park barriers and Youtube. It will be repeated between 1 and 28 February 2010 in the same media excluding Youtube.

Floods: Finance

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much of the £23 million committed to Gloucestershire county council, Sheffield city council, North Lincolnshire council, East Riding of Yorkshire council, Barnsley metropolitan borough council, West Berkshire council, Shropshire county council and Rotherham metropolitan borough council following the 2007 floods to repair roads and bridges has been *(a)* paid to and *(b)* spent by th[illegible] authorities. [309[illegible]1]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport's policy in respect of its emergency capital highway maintenance funding for the 2007 floods, was to settle claims on an interim and final estimated cost basis. This allowed authorities to expedite their planned programme of repairs.

The funding transferred is set out as follows.

£ million

	Funding allocations made		
Authority	March 2008	July 2008	December 2008
Gloucestershire county council	10.048	6.500	0
Sheffield city council	9.033	0	0
North Lincolnshire council	1.497	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire council	1.087	5.042	0
Barnsley metropolitan borough council	0.874	1.315	0
West Berkshire council	0.580	0.144	0
Shropshire county council	0.152	1.019	0

£ million

	Funding allocations made		
Authority	*March 2008*	*July 2008*	*December 2008*
Rotherham metropolitan borough council	0.102	0.173	0
Worcestershire county council	0	2.312	0
Kingston upon Hull city council	0	0	0.665
Total	23.373	16.504	0.665

Details of expenditure by local authorities on the maintenance of their highways are not held centrally. Expenditure by local authorities is held in their individual accounts which are independently audited.

Great Western Railway

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the Secretary of State was informed that Network Rail intended to close the Great Western Main Line at Newport, South Wales for major engineering work over a 10 day period from 24 December 2009; and what *(a)* incentives and *(b)* sanctions are in place to encourage Network Rail to complete the proposed work on time. [308157]

Chris Mole: Network Rail gave public notice of the planned engineering work at Newport on 13 November 2009. As is normal practice, no special notice was given to the Secretary of State for Transport in advance of this.

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is responsible for ensuring that Network Rail complies with its network licence. Significant engineering over-runs can constitute a breach of the licence. If this occurs, the ORR can impose a fine upon Network Rail, as happened following the over-runs in January 2008.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) if he will estimate the amount of time that will be added to journey times for those travelling westwards to *(a)* Newport, *(b)* Cardiff and *(c)* Swansea as a result of the closure of the Great Western Mainline at Newport, South Wales from 24 December 2009; [308158]

(2) what discussions have taken place between his Department and Network Rail on reducing inconvenience to passengers caused by the temporary closure of the Great Western Main Line at Newport, South Wales; [308159]

(3) what discussions have taken place between his Department and Network Rail on the timeframe for the proposed engineering work intended to start on 24 December 2009 on the Great Western Main Line at Newport, South Wales. [308160]

Chris Mole: The planning, timing, and duration of engineering works are operational matters for Network Rail under the industry-wide national possessions regime overseen by the independent Office of Rail Regulation. This regime incentivises Network Rail to plan the timings of possessions as early as possible to minimise the impact on passenger and freight train operators' services.

Ministers and officials have received feedback from Network Rail on the duration, scope and benefits of the major track renewal, re-signalling and station upgrade projects in the Newport and Severn tunnel junction areas over the Christmas and new year period. Network Rail informed Ministers that they had considered alternative ways of carrying out the work, but that the scheme implemented minimised overall disruption to the travelling public.

Ministers emphasised to Network Rail the importance of completing the work on time to enable the smooth re-introduction of services on 4 January 2010 and I understand that this was the case.

I am due to visit the site of the works on 7 January 2010.

My hon. Friend should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a more detailed response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department and its predecessor have paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302744]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport and its agencies maintain the policy that parking fines, including clamping charges, remain the responsibility of the individual, and are not reimbursed from public resources.

Kemble-Swindon Railway Line

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport by what date he anticipates the completion of the doubling of the railway line between Swindon and Kemble. [308233]

Chris Mole: Officials at the Department for Transport are currently in negotiation with Network Rail to determine an acceptable price for this work, along with timescales for construction. We hope to be in a position to give further information on the matter in the near future.

M6: Closures

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the reasons were for the closure of the M6 motorway between junctions 33 and 34 on the night of Thursday 26 November 2009; and between what times it was closed. [308452]

Chris Mole: On Thursday 26 November 2009, the northbound carriageway of the M6 motorway between junctions 33 and 34, was closed by the Highways Agency from 8pm until 3.30am on 27 November, in order to replace the worn-out road surface.

Parking Offences: CCTV

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which local authorities have applied for certification to use CCTV equipment for civil parking enforcement; and which applications have been *(a)* approved and *(b)* refused. [308546]

Mr. Khan: A list of authorities whose equipment has been certified is maintained on the Department's website. The current list is reproduced as follows.

Applicant	*Certification granted*
Medway Council	4 June 2008
Nottingham City Council	12 June 2008
London Borough of Hounslow	13 August 2008
London Borough of Redbridge	4 September 2008
London Borough of Ealing	11 September 2008
London Borough of Lambeth	21 January 2009
London Borough of Islington	21 January 2009
London Borough of Lewisham	20 February 2009
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	23 February 2009
London Borough of Havering	26 February 2009
London Borough of Harrow	16 March 2009
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	20 March 2009
London Borough of Hillingdon	20 March 2009
London Borough of Croydon	20 March 2009
London Borough of Haringey	27 March 2009
London Borough of Newham	30 March 2009
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	30 March 2009
London Borough of Hackney	30 March 2009
Transport for London	30 March 2009
London Borough of Camden	30 March 2009
London Borough of Bromley	30 March 2009
London Borough of Bexley	30 March 2009
City of London	30 March 2009
London Borough of Southwark	31 March 2009
London Borough of Waltham Forest	31 March 2009
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	3 April 2009
London Borough of Barking & Dagenham	6 April 2009
London Borough of Enfield	6 April 2009
London Borough of Wandsworth	14 April 2009
South Tyneside Council	18 May 2009
Bournemouth Borough Council	9 June 2009
Basildon District Council	7 July 2009
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	21 September 2009
Bristol City Council	20 November 2009

In addition, applications have been received, and are being considered, from the following authorities: Gateshead council, Merton council, and Westminster city council.

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) whether his Department issues guidance to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* police forces on the use of closed circuit television for the purposes of parking enforcement; [308690]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the use of closed circuit television for the purposes of municipal parking enforcement. [308585]

Mr. Khan: Advice on the use of closed circuit television by local traffic authorities enforcing parking under the Traffic Management Act 2004 is contained in section 8 of "The Secretary of State's Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions" and in section 8 of the Department's "Operational Guidance to Local Authorities: Parking Policy and Enforcement". Both are available on the Department for Transport's website and I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

In summary, the guidance says that such equipment should be used only where enforcement is difficult or sensitive and enforcement by on-street officers is not practical—for example where permits or exemptions not readily visible to the equipment apply.

Enforcement in areas where parking remains a criminal offence does not come within the Department's remit and so we have not issued any comparable guidance to the police.

Parking Offences: Fines

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer to Lord Lucas of 5 October 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 429WA, on parking fines, if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* application by Westminster city council for certification and *(b)* the letter of refusal by his Department. [308545]

Mr. Khan: The information from Westminster council, provided in support of its application for certification of CCTV equipment used for the civil enforcement of parking contraventions, remains under active development and ongoing consideration. It is therefore not appropriate to release the application. There has not been any letter of refusal.

Railways: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Betts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will estimate the likely reduction in greenhouse gas emissions which would result from the *(a)* electrification of railway lines and *(b)* the construction of tram lines by 2020. [308980]

Chris Mole: Rail currently emits about 1.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide directly from diesel consumption and is indirectly responsible for about 1.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide produced by the electricity generating sector. Electrifying the rail network by 2020 would remove carbon emissions associated with diesel consumption but increase emissions from power stations. The net effect would be a reduction in 2020 in rail related emissions of about 1.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide.

The impact of new light rail schemes on carbon dioxide emissions will vary by the size and location of the system and how effective it is in encouraging people to switch from other modes particularly car. A reduction in carbon emissions as a result of a new light rail scheme is possible providing sufficient passengers are attracted from other modes. Light rail extensions in Manchester and Nottingham are under construction or being considered for funding by the Department for Transport. Forecasts from the scheme promoters suggest that in total these extensions will save around 3,000 tonnes of carbon per annum.

Railways: Finance

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the review of value for money in the rail sector announced in the 2009 pre-Budget report to be concluded. [309070]

Chris Mole: The first phase of the review will be a scoping study, which is expected to report at the end of March 2010. We will announce the timetable for the rest of the work in due course.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what plans his Department has to consult trade unions in its review of value for money in the rail sector announced in the 2009 pre-Budget report. [309071]

Chris Mole: The full scope of the review, including the list of stakeholders to be consulted is yet to be determined. The study's terms of reference are on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/strategyfinance/valueformoney

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to his Department's review of value for money in the rail sector announced in the 2009 pre-Budget report, with which other countries the UK rail system will be benchmarked as part of that review. [309072]

Chris Mole: The review is currently at a very early stage and the list of countries that will be used for benchmarking purposes has not yet been established.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which stakeholders he plans to consult during his review into improving value for money in the rail sector announced in the 2009 pre-Budget report. [309321]

Chris Mole: The full scope of the review, including the list of stakeholders to be consulted is yet to be determined. The study's terms of reference are on the Department for Transport's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/strategyfinance/valueformoney

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which stakeholders he plans to consult as part of his consideration of funding and spending priorities for the control period 2009-14. [309322]

Chris Mole: In the development of the rail High Level Output Specification, published on 24 July 2007 and covering the control period 2009 to 2014, the Department for Transport consulted with the Association of Train Operating Companies, Transport for London, Network Rail, the devolved administrations, Passenger Transport Executives, the Office of Rail Regulation and Passenger Focus. Further consultation took place with a wide list of stakeholders, including, but not limited to, the Confederation of British Industry, the Rail Freight Operators Association, the Rail Freight Group, London Travelwatch and the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee.

Railways: Franchises

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the subject of public ownership and operation of rail franchises will be considered in the review into improving value for money in the rail sector announced in the pre-Budget report. [307826]

Chris Mole: The terms of reference for the study into improving the value for money of the railway have now been published on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/strategyfinance/valueformoney

Alongside this, the Department is also carrying out a review of the current franchising model in readiness for the retendering of the East Coast, Greater Anglia and Essex Thameside franchises during 2010.

However, the Government believe that a 'publicly specified privately delivered' model for passenger rail services is the most appropriate model, and believe that this model has delivered significant improvements for passengers over the last 10 years, including record reliability and customer satisfaction scores.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what costs have been incurred by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the Strategic Rail Authority in designing and tendering rail franchises since 1996. [307827]

Chris Mole: The costs incurred by the Department for Transport in designing and tendering rail franchises from 2005-09 is £33.8 million, while the equivalent costs for the Strategic Rail Authority from 2003-05 is £42.4 million.

The letting of franchises since 1996 has been undertaken by a number of successive agencies, namely the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising, the Shadow Strategic Rail Authority, the Strategic Rail Authority and since mid-2005, the Department for Transport. Re-franchising costs prior to 2003 were part of general business costs and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much public subsidy has been allocated in respect of each railway franchise since 1997; and to which company in each such case. [309069]

Chris Mole: Details of public subsidy paid to each rail franchise is published annually by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in National Rail Trends (NRT). Copies of NRT are available in the Library of the House and on the ORR's website at

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Railways: Glasgow

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many passenger journeys on direct London to Glasgow rail services were made in the last 10 years. [309050]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold data on passenger journeys by direct trains only. Since April 2001, 2.6 million direct and indirect journeys have been made between London and Glasgow in both directions.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport who will take the final decision on whether to continue direct London to Glasgow rail services; and when he expects that decision to be taken. [309352]

Chris Mole: The specification of train services between London and Glasgow is set by the Secretary of State and is subject to agreement of track access rights by the Office of Rail Regulation.

There are no proposals to discontinue direct rail services between Glasgow and London Euston via the West Coast Main Line which carries most of the Glasgow to London passengers.

After the completion of the £8.9 billion West Coast Main Line upgrade, only a relatively small number of passengers travel by the direct service from Glasgow to London Kings Cross, which has a substantially longer journey time than the Glasgow to Euston service. Therefore, as part of a major revision of the East Coast Main Line timetable, consideration is being given to replacement of direct Glasgow to London Kings Cross services with through services between Glasgow, Leeds, Sheffield and the Midlands.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has conducted any recent research of the economic benefits of retaining direct London to Glasgow rail services. [309353]

Chris Mole: The economic benefits of direct services between London Euston and Glasgow were evaluated in detail by the former Strategic Rail Authority as part of the business case for upgrading the West Coast Main Line. It has not been necessary for the Department for Transport to repeat that work.

The future of direct services between London King's Cross and Glasgow has been reviewed as part of a package of changes to services on the East Coast Main Line. Specifically, the Department for Transport has considered whether through-journeys between Glasgow and north-east England should be provided by Cross Country services rather than East Coast services. In accordance with normal practice, assessment of alternative service patterns is focussing on the changes in passenger journey opportunities and the impact on operating costs. The economic benefits of the full package of changes to the East Coast Main Line timetable will be evaluated in due course to confirm the overall business case for the changes.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what environmental impact assessment has been made of the retention of direct London to Glasgow rail services. [309311]

Chris Mole: There are no plans to reduce services running between London Euston and Glasgow. Any proposals to modify services between London Kings Cross and Glasgow will be subject to public consultation. However, the number of people who travel from Glasgow to Kings Cross is very small, due to the significant longer journey time than the recently improved Glasgow to Euston service.

It is not the Department for Transport's policy to carry out environmental assessments of changes to individual service patterns. Instead such assessments are used to inform major investment decisions such as the Department's recent announcements of new electrification schemes.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what funding his Department has provided to each of the regional development agencies in each of the last three years; and for what purposes. [308488]

Chris Mole: The Department made the following payments to regional development agencies during the last three financial years:

			£
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
One Northeast	—	5,777	—
London Development Agency	31,787	18,093	—
South West Development Agency	—	—	29,078
Total payments	31,787	23,870	29,078

The payment made in 2008-09 was a contribution towards the Regional Development Agency's Carbon Assessment scheme. Due to a change in the Department's accounting system in 2008 it is not possible to identify the purpose of the payments made in 2006-07 and 2007-08 other than at disproportionate cost.

Roads: Accidents

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many *(a)* road traffic accidents, *(b)* road traffic fatalities, *(c)* accidents involving motorcyclists, *(d)* fatalities involving motorcyclists, *(e)* accidents involving cyclists and *(f)* fatalities involving cyclists there were in (i) East Sussex and (ii) Lewes constituency in each of the last five years; [308464]

(2) how many road traffic accidents in *(a)* East Sussex and *(b)* Lewes constituency involved motorbikes in each of the last five years; and how many of them resulted in loss of life in each of those five years; [308465]

(3) how many road traffic accidents which occurred in *(a)* East Sussex and *(b)* Lewes constituency involved loss of life in each of the last five years. [308466]

Paul Clark: The information requested is given in the tables.

Reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities in East Sussex 2004-08

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
All injury accidents	2,795	2,746	2,657	2,769	2,554
Fatal accidents	43	52	46	31	42
Fatalities	48	58	46	32	44

Reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities in East Sussex 2004-08

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Accidents involving motorcycles	372	378	365	346	395
Fatal accidents involving motorcycles	10	12	12	12	10
Fatalities in accidents involving motorcycles	10	12	12	12	10
Accidents involving pedal cycles	230	254	248	254	259
Fatal accidents involving pedal cycles	3	2	2	4	4
Fatalities in accidents involving pedal cycles	3	2	2	4	4

Reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities in Lewes[1]*: 2004-08*

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
All injury accidents	346	304	345	374	316
Fatal accidents	7	4	7	8	6
Fatalities	9	4	7	9	7
Accidents involving motorcycles	35	37	42	44	51
Fatal accidents involving motorcycles	2	1	3	3	1
Fatalities in accidents involving motorcycles	2	1	3	3	1
Accidents involving pedal cycles	21	21	20	19	32
Fatal accidents involving pedal cycles	0	0	0	1	1
Fatalities in accidents involving pedal cycles	0	0	0	1	1

[1] Based on 2004 constituency boundaries

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many road traffic accidents which occurred in Leeds North West constituency involved loss of life in each of the last five years. [309392]

Paul Clark: The information requested is given in the following table.

Reported fatal road accidents in Leeds North West constituency[1]*, 2004-08*

	Accidents
2004	5
2005	2
2006	7
2007	6
2008	1

[1] Based on 2004 parliamentary constituency boundaries.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the average age of *(a)* electric and *(b)* diesel powered rolling stock on the rail network was in (i) 1997, (ii) 2003 and (iii) 2009; and what the equivalent average ages are expected to be in (A) 2014, (B) 2020 and (C) 2030. [308852]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold data for these specific categories. However, overall average age figures for the national rail fleet are published in the National Rail Trends on the Office of Rail Regulation's website at:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions, and in each case in respect of how many vehicles, his Department has exercised its right to buy from the rolling stock companies rolling stock which those companies have identified *(a)* for scrapping and *(b)* for export in each year since 1997. [308854]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport inherited this right to buy rolling stock in 2005 from the Strategic Rail Authority. Since this date, the Department has not exercised the right to buy rolling stock that has been identified by the leasing companies for scrapping or sale.

Rolling stock is normally only offered to the Department when the ROSCO has exhausted all avenues to lease it or does not see a good business case for ownership. As a rule the vehicles they have offered to the Department are usually intended for scrapping such as the Mark 1 slam door stock.

Severn Bridge: Tolls

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the Department plans to bring forward proposals to amend the Severn Bridges Act 1992 to enable the toll over the Severn Bridge to be paid via means other than cash; and if he will make a statement. [309228]

Mr. Khan: Detailed discussions for providing credit and debit card facilities as a method of payment are continuing with the concessionaire.

Once all negotiations are complete, the project to introduce card payments at the Severn Crossings can be progressed.

In parallel with the negotiations with the concessionaire, the necessary amendments to secondary legislation to permit debit and credit card payments are being prepared.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department plans to authorise the annual inflationary increase for the Severn Bridges toll price from April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [309356]

Mr. Khan: The Severn Bridges Toll Order 2009 was made on 16 December 2009 and came into force on 1 January 2010. This order sets the toll rates for the calendar year.

The toll rates for 2010 were announced by Severn River Crossing plc. on 18 December 2009.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when his Department plans to make an announcement on the annual inflationary increase in the Severn Bridges toll price from April 2010; and if he will make a statement. [309357]

Mr. Khan: New toll rates come into effect on 1 January each year and reflect changes to the retail price index (RPI). For 2010 they also reflect the restoration of the 17.5 per cent. VAT rate.

The Severn Bridges Toll Order 2009 was made on 16 December 2009 and came into force on 1 January 2010. The toll rates for 2010 were announced by Severn River Crossing plc. on 18 December 2009.

Shipping: Minimum Wage

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will publish legal advice *(a)* obtained and *(b)* considered by his Department in the last two years on the application of the minimum wage to seafarers sailing between UK ports. [307825]

Paul Clark: The Government's legal advice concerning the proposed extension of the national minimum wage to seafarers plying their trade between UK ports is clear and has been relayed on a number of occasions, both personally and in correspondence, to representatives of the trade union movement by successive Ministers.

I last wrote to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington, setting out the Government's position on the proposed extension of the national minimum wage, on 9 November 2009. I have placed a copy of that correspondence in the Libraries of the House.

Additionally, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given today to him by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (UIN 307815).

Travel: Concessions

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many pensioners were in receipt of concessionary travel fares *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the latest period for which figures are available. [308669]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport does not maintain records of how many people in local authorities are in receipt of a concessionary bus pass as concessionary travel is administered locally by Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs).

The last information held by the Department was that as of 17 April 2009, 7,883,897 of the new smartcard concessionary passes had been issued in England. This includes applications from disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Ministers of Religion: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what steps are being taken to ensure that the stipend for parish priests is sufficient for them to perform their duties. [309495]

Sir Stuart Bell: The principles of adequacy, flexibility and equitability underpin the work of the Central Stipends Authority which annually recommends a National Minimum Stipend and strongly encourages dioceses to ensure that no full-time stipendiary minister is paid below this level.

The CSA believes that current stipend levels are adequate and bishops and diocesan staff keep them under regular review as part of the pastoral care of the clergy. It should also be remembered that the clergy remuneration package includes more than just the stipend. It also includes the provision of housing, payment of council tax, water charges and maintenance costs, a non-contributory pension, removal grants and (in high risk areas) subsidised insurance.

For the Church Commissioners' part, they do make available, via the Archbishops' Council, additional stipend support to the least well-resourced dioceses.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons: Electricity

Keith Vaz: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much the House of Commons Commission has spent on electricity on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate in each of the last five years. [308383]

Nick Harvey: Direct expenditure by the House of Commons authorities on electricity during the last five years has been:

	£000
2004-05	930
2005-06	1,273
2006-07	1,709
2007-08	1,428
2008-09	1,929

The increase in costs over the period is largely due to the increased unit cost of electricity: consumption in 2008-09 was slightly lower than in 2004-05, with some fluctuation in the years in between.

The above figures do not include electricity charges for some leasehold buildings (4 Millbank, 7 Millbank and Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre) on the Commons part of the parliamentary estate as these are met by the landlord and not separately recorded.

House of Commons: Marketing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many press, marketing and communications staff are employed by the House of Commons; and how many staff provide media and communications support to the Speaker. [308276]

Nick Harvey: The Media and Communications Service (MCS) employs 11 staff, six of whom work with select committees. One MCS member of staff works with the Speaker's special adviser to provide media and communications support for the Speaker's outreach activities as part of a range of responsibilities. In addition to the MCS, there is an internal communications team, employing five staff, with responsibility for communications with House of Commons staff, Members and Members' staff.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Policing and Crime Act 2009

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what representations the Government has received on the effects of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 on the powers of the Belfast International Airport Constabulary, with particular reference to that part of the Act which amends the Aviation Security Act 1982; and if he will make a statement. [308059]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are aware of concerns about the ability of the Belfast airports to operate private police forces and this was discussed with the Northern Ireland Office during the drafting of the new provisions.

I can confirm that we will use powers in the Policing and Crime Act 2009 to ensure that the current policing arrangements can be maintained at both airports. Officials from the Department for Transport will work closely with the airports concerned and the Northern Ireland Office in this matter.

Weapons: Decommissioning

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress is being made towards total decommissioning of weapons held by *(a)* Republican and *(b)* Loyalist paramilitaries in Northern Ireland. [308553]

Paul Goggins: I welcome the historic report from the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning on 6 January confirming a major decommissioning act by the UDA, one which the leadership of the UDA has stated constitutes the totality of those armaments under its control. This is an important development and further evidence of the success of politics over violence in Northern Ireland.

I join the IICD in calling on other groups still intending to decommission and currently engaged with the IICD to put their weapons beyond use before the amnesty ends on 9 February.

WALES

Prison Overcrowding

10. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on overcrowding in prisons in Wales. [308879]

Mr. David: I have met regularly with the Minister for Prisons to discuss the search for locations suitable for new 1,500 place prisons.

Our aim is to ease prison overcrowding in Wales and to provide local employment. There will be a focus on four priority areas of greatest strategic need for prison places, including North Wales.

Clean Air Charters

11. **Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* First Minister and *(b)* Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to promote clean air charters in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [308880]

Mr. David: My right hon. Friend has taken a close interest in clean air charters, and his officials and advisers have been engaged in promoting them in Wales, including in discussion with counterparts in the Welsh Assembly Government and the Department of Energy and Climate Change. We support all steps that can be taken to improve air quality.

Economic Situation

12. **John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the Welsh economy. [308881]

Mr. Hain: I had regular discussions with the former First Minister Rhodri Morgan AM on the Welsh economy and will continue to do so with the new First Minister.

Our action both in Westminster and Wales has helped to prevent a global recession from becoming a depression. Now we will focus on securing the economic recovery in Wales.

Courts Service

13. **Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the service provided by HM Courts Service in Wales. [308882]

Mr. David: The Secretary of State and I are delighted that the courts and court offices across the Courts Service in Wales have achieved the new Government Customer Service Excellence standard for delivering high levels of service to court users.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308834]

Mr. Hain: None.

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what powers his Department has to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much his Department has recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [309265]

Mr. Hain: None.

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many hotel rooms were booked by officials in his Department in each year since 2007; and how much his Department spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309058]

Mr. Hain: The information is not held in the format requested and could be obtained only by incurring disproportionate costs. No third party booking fees have been incurred.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many nationals of *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Belarus, *(c)* Burma, *(d)* the People's Republic of China, *(e)* Colombia, *(f)* Cuba, *(g)* the Democratic Republic of Congo, *(h)* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *(i)* Iran, *(j)* Iraq, *(k)* Israel, *(l)* the Palestinian Territories, *(m)* Pakistan, *(n)* the Russian Federation, *(o)* Saudi Arabia, *(p)* Somalia, *(q)* Sudan, *(r)* Syria, *(s)* Turkmenistan, *(t)* Uzbekistan, *(u)* Vietnam and *(v)* Zimbabwe were (i) refused asylum and (ii) removed or voluntarily deported from the UK in each month in the third quarter of 2009. [304674]

Mr. Woolas: Table 1 shows the number of principal applicants refused asylum, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave at initial decision and table 2 shows the number of removals and voluntary departures of principal asylum cases in the UK, in each month in the third quarter of 2009 for the requested nationalities.

Information on immigration and asylum are published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics and the latest statistics for Q[illegible] 2009 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Crime: Nature Conservation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what types of wildlife crime are dealt with by the National Wildlife Crime Unit. [308551]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National Wildlife Crime Unit's priorities are currently:

Badger persecution;

Convention on the international trade in endangered species (CITES) issues including all five of CITES' current priorities;

Raptor (bird of prey) persecution including poisoning, egg theft, chick theft and nest disturbance or destruction;

Poaching, which includes deer, fish and hare coursing;

Bat persecution; and

Conservation of freshwater pearl mussels.

These priorities are identified on the basis of the conservation status and number of incidents.

The unit also collects data on the full range of wildlife crime incidents, from swan-related incidents to habitat destruction or illegal dog or cock fighting. If a particular problem emerged, the unit would take steps to tackle it through analytical and operational support of the local police force(s).

DNA: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1532W, on DNA: databases, how many profiles have been removed from the National DNA database by each police force in each month since 15 October 2009; and if he will make a statement. [309229]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Table 1 shows the number of subject profiles removed from the national DNA database under the Exceptional Case Procedure, i.e. following a request to the chief officer of the responsible police force from the person concerned, in each month from 16 October 2009 to 30 November 2009.

The table covers subject profiles from English and Welsh police forces and the British Transport police.

Table 1: Number of subject profiles removed from the national DNA database by each police force from 16 October 2009 to 30 November 2009

Force	*16-31 October 2009*	*1-30 November 2009*
Avon and Somerset	3	0
Bedfordshire	0	0
British Transport	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0
Cheshire	0	0
City of London	0	0
Cleveland	0	0
Cumbria	1	2
Derbyshire	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	0
Dorset	0	0
Durham	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	0	0
Essex	1	0
Gloucestershire	0	0
Greater Manchester	0	0
Gwent	0	0
Hampshire	0	1
Hertfordshire	2	0
Humberside	0	0
Kent	3	2
Lancashire	0	0
Leicestershire	1	0
Lincolnshire	0	0
Merseyside	0	2
Metropolitan	0	2
Norfolk	1	0
North Wales	0	1
North Yorkshire	0	2
Northamptonshire	1	0
Northumbria	6	[illegible]
Nottinghamshire	0	0
South Wales	0	1
South Yorkshire	0	5
Staffordshire	0	0
Suffolk	0	0
Surrey	0	0
Sussex	0	0

Table 1: Number of subject profiles removed from the national DNA database by each police force from 16 October 2009 to 30 November 2009

Force	*16-31 October 2009*	*1-30 November 2009*
Thames Valley	0	0
Warwickshire	0	0
West Mercia	0	0
West Midlands	2	0
West Yorkshire	2	3
Wiltshire	2	0
Total	25	22

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1534W, on DNA: databases, how many new profiles have been added to the National DNA database by each police force in each month since 15 October 2009; and if he will make a statement. [309230]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The figures in Table 1 show the number of subject profiles added to the National DNA database (NDNAD) by English and Welsh police forces and British Transport police in each month between 16 October 2009 and 30 November 2009, broken down by the police force which took the sample.

The number of subject profiles held on the NDNAD is not the same as the number of individuals. A proportion of DNA profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates—that is, a profile for a person has been loaded on more than one occasion (this may be because the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because of upgrading of profiles). It is currently estimated that 13.8 per cent. of subject profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. The replication rate of 13.8 per cent. should only be applied over the entire database however, as the replication rate for individual police forces varies considerably. The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database.

Table 1: Subject profiles added to the NDNAD

Force	*16 to 31 October 2009*	*1 to 30 November 2009*
Avon and Somerset	569	735
Bedfordshire	231	351
British Transport	259	372
Cambridgeshire	203	430
Cheshire	351	481
City of London	65	92
Cleveland	102	403
Cumbria	200	337
Derbyshire	411	497
Devon and Cornwall	345	768
Dorset	191	345
Durham	175	244
Dyfed-Powys	176	302
Essex	593	1,053
Gloucestershire	205	480
Greater Manchester	1,193	1,781
Gwent	255	412
Hampshire	517	954
Hertfordshire	277	479
Humberside	450	496
Kent	610	863
Lancashire	944	654
Leicestershire	162	519
Lincolnshire	169	421
Merseyside	1,116	2,012
Metropolitan	4,385	5,033
Norfolk	190	331
North Wales	192	482
North Yorkshire	139	358
Northamptonshire	187	311
Northumbria	464	837
Nottinghamshire	433	880
South Wales	473	604
South Yorkshire	458	718
Staffordshire	558	807
Suffolk	206	526
Surrey	250	351
Sussex	635	399
Thames Valley	884	1,004
Warwickshire	99	295
West Mercia	254	570
West Midlands	640	1,875
West Yorkshire	690	1,166
Wiltshire	215	439
Total	21,121	32,467

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police cautions were issued for *(a)* possession and *(b)* possession with intent for (i) class A, (ii) class B and (c) class C drug offences in each year since 1997. [308964]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information provided by the Ministry of Justice showing the number of cautions given for possession of a controlled drug, by class, in England and Wales, 1997 to 2007 (latest available), can be viewed in table 1. The number given for possession with intent to supply can be viewed in table 2.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Table 1: Number of offenders cautioned for possession of a controlled drug, by class, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Year	*Class A*	*Class B*	*Class C*
Class A	1997	3,918	48,728	249
92/50-92/59 93/67	1998	4,130	51,515	242
Class B	1999	4,266	42,560	164
92/60-92/65	2000	4,479	34,595	147
Class C	2001	4,583	33,182	108
92/66-92/68 93/71-93/72	2002	4,563	38,482	149
	2003	4,764	38,845	149
	2004	5,576	10,114	14,605
	2005	7,431	3,621	20,805
	2006	10,139	2,746	21,367
	2007	13,536	3,262	22,643

Table 2: Number of offenders cautioned for possession with intent to supply a controlled drug, by class, England and Wales, 1997 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Year	*Class A*	*Class B*	*Class C*
Class A	1997	79	401	19
92/70-92/79 93/77	1998	88	470	10
Class B	1999	91	413	8
92/80-92/85	2000	139	305	7
Class C	2001	136	310	5
92/86-92/88 93/77-93/78	2002	132	336	5
	2003	129	371	6
	2004	137	207	280
	2005	189	83	477
	2006	247	53	519
	2007	234	44	457

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Cannabis was reclassified in January 2004 to a class C drug. From 1997 to 2003 the class B category includes cannabis; from 2004-07 cannabis is included in class C.

[4] Since April 2004 the police may issue an adult offender with a cannabis warning for simple possession of cannabis.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice.

Work Permits

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many companies in each industry sector have obtained approval for an intra-company transfer in each month since 31 December 2008. [303047]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides details of the number of organisations that have registered under the Points Based System for a Tier 2 sponsor licence in the Intra-Company Transfer category. The information provided is grouped under the appropriate Standard Industrial Classification.

Industry sector	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
Accommodation	5	5	5	5	—	*	*	*	*	—	*	—	20
Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities	5	*	—	—	—	5	—	—	5	*	5	—	15
Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies	—	—	*	—	—	*	*	—	—	*	—	—	5
Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities	5	5	10	*	5	5	5	*	*	5	5	*	45
Activities of membership organisations	—	*	—	—	—	*	—	*	*	—	—	—	5
Administrative and Support Activities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Advertising and market research	5	5	10	5	*	5	*	5	5	5	*	*	45
Air transport	5	5	5	*	*	5	5	5	*	5	*	*	40
Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis	5	5	5	*	—	*	*	5	*	*	5	—	30
Civil engineering	*	—	—	*	5	—	5	—	*	—	*	—	10
Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	25	20	20	25	15	10	15	20	15	25	15	5	205

Industry sector	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
Construction	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Construction of buildings	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	—	*	—	—	10
Creative, arts and entertainment activities	5	*	5	5	5	—	5	*	5	*	5	—	30
Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities	—	*	—	*	—	—	—	—	*	*	—	—	5
Education	5	5	10	5	—	5	*	5	—	*	5	—	30
Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	5	*	*	5	—	—	—	*	—	5	—	—	10
Employment activities	*	5	*	*	5	—	—	*	—	—	*	—	10
Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas	5	5	10	5	5	5	*	*	5	5	5	—	45
Financial and Insurance Activities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding	35	30	30	15	20	20	15	15	25	20	15	5	240
Fishing and aquaculture	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*
Food and beverage service activities	5	5	5	5	5	*	*	5	*	5	*	—	30
Gambling and betting activities	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*
Human health activities	5	*	5	*	5	5	5	*	*	5	*	*	30
Human Health and Social Work Activities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Information and Communication	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Information service activities	15	5	10	*	10	5	5	5	10	10	5	*	90
Insurance, reinsurance, pension funding exc compulsory social security	10	10	*	5	5	—	5	*	*	5	5	—	40
Land transport and transport via pipelines	*	*	*	*	—	—	*	*	—	*	*	—	10
Legal and accounting activities	5	*	10	5	5	5	*	5	*	*	5	—	40
Libraries, archives, museums and other cultural activities	—	—	*	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	†
Manufacture of basic metals	*	*	*	—	*	—	*	*	—	—	—	—	10
Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and preparations	5	*	5	*	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	—	25
Manufacture of beverages	*	—	*	*	*	*	—	—	*	—	—	—	10
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	5	5	5	*	*	—	*	*	*	—	*	—	20

Industry sector	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	5	*	*	5	*	5	*	*	5	5	*	—	30
Manufacture of electrical equipment	10	5	5	*	5	*	*	5	5	*	*	—	35
Manufacture of fabricated metal products, except machinery	5	*	*	—	5	*	*	*	*	—	—	*	15
Manufacture of food products	5	*	5	*	*	5	*	*	—	—	5	—	20
Manufacture of furniture	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	*
Manufacture of leather and related products	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	*
Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.	10	5	5	*	5	5	*	*	*	5	—	—	40
Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers	*	*	*	*	*	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	*	5
Manufacture of other transport equipment	5	*	*	—	—	5	—	—	—	*	—	—	10
Manufacture of paper and paper products	*	*	*	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	*	—	5
Manufacture of rubber and plastic products	*	5	*	—	—	*	—	—	*	*	—	—	10
Manufacture of textiles	—	*	*	—	—	*	5	—	*	—	—	—	10
Manufacture of tobacco products	—	*	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*
Manufacture of wearing apparel	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	*
Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining and Quarrying	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mining of metal ores	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	*	—	—	5
Mining support service activities	*	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	5
Movies, video, & TV prog, sound recording & music publishing activities	5	—	—	—	*	—	—	*	*	*	*	—	10
Office administrative, office support and other business support activities	5	—	10	*	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	—	45
Other manufacturing	10	10	5	10	*	*	5	5	5	*	5	*	50
Other mining and quarrying	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	*	*	—	—	5
Other personal service activities	*	*	*	—	5	*	*	*	5	*	—	—	15

Industry sector	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
Other professional, scientific and technical activities	15	10	20	10	15	5	5	10	10	10	*	—	110
Other Service Activities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Postal and courier activities	*	—	—	—	[illegible]	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	*
Printing and reproduction of recorded media	—	—	*	—	*	—	*	*	—	—		—	5
Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Programming and broadcasting activities	*	*	*	5	*	*	*	—	*	—	—	—	10
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—		—	*
Publishing activities	*	5	5	5	5	—	—	*	*	5	—	—	25
Real estate activities	*	*	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	—	20
Remediation activities and other waste management services	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*
Rental and leasing activities	—	*	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Repair and installation of machinery and equipment	*	5	*	—	*	—	—	*	*	*	*	—	15
Residential care activities	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	10	10	5	5	5	5	*	5	10	*	5	—	60
Scientific research and development	5	*	5	*	*	*	5	5	5	*	—	—	30
Security and investigation activities	—	*	—	—	*	*	*	*	—	*	*	—	10
Services to buildings and landscape activities	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	*	5
Social work activities without accommodation	*	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	*	—	5
Specialised construction activities	*	*	*	*	—	*	—	*	*	*	—	—	10
Sports activities and amusement and recreation activities	*	—	*	—	*	—	—	*	—	*	—	—	5
Telecommunications	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	5	5	—	*	50
Transportation and Storage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Travel agency, tour operator, reservation service & related activities	5	*	5	*	*	—	—	*	*	*	—	—	20
Veterinary activities	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	*

Industry sector	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Total*
Warehousing and support activities for transportation	*	*	*	*	—	—	—	5	*	*	*	—	15
Waste collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	*	—	*	—	*	5
Water collection, treatment and supply	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*
Water Supply, Sewerage and Waste Management	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water transport	5	*	—	*	*	—	*	*	*	*	*	—	15
Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	*		*	*	*	—	*	*	*	—	*	—	10
Wholesale and Retail Trade: Vehicle Repairs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wholesale trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles	10	5	5	—	5	5	*	10	5	5	5	*	50
Total	305	200	250	145	160	140	125	165	155	160	110	20	1,935

* = 1 or 2

— = Nil

Notes.

These data are not provided under National Statistics protocols. They have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

The figures are rounded to the nearest 5 and, as a result, may not sum due to rounding.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: North West

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps her Department is undertaking to ensure the north west region will benefit from the London 2012 Olympics. [308663]

Tessa Jowell: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games established the Nations and Regions Group to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy of London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to maximise the sporting, commercial, cultural and other benefits of the 2012 games.

There are plans for 68 Olympic and Paralympic pre-games training camps in the north west. In addition, the Australian Olympic swimming team, the Thailand Olympic and Paralympic team and the Oceania National Olympic Committees have signed agreements to base their pre-games training camps in the north west. Old Trafford will also host rounds in the Olympic football competition in 2012.

43 businesses in the north west have won direct contracts with the Olympic Delivery Authority, some 13 projects in the north west have been awarded the Inspire mark and more than 50 organisations have participated in the open weekend.

Also, the north west has secured £3.02 million from the Legacy Trust to encourage the north west sporting, cultural and education sectors to connect with the 2012 games. To date, around 550 schools in the north west have registered with Get Set, the official London 2012 education programme.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many endemic species can be located in the *(a)* United Kingdom and *(b)* British Overseas Territories; and how many of those are endangered. [309110]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Given the limited time available, it is not possible to make a thorough analysis of all available information. I will write to the hon. Member providing the information requested.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on consultants advising on the Higher Level schemes in the last three years. [308238]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The consultancy costs associated with the Higher Level Stewardship scheme cannot be identified separately from the cost of delivering the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) as a whole.

In delivering the RDPE, the only consultancy costs incurred related to the design of workflow processes and the development work around IT system changes. These costs amounted to:

	£
2007-08	2,395,000
2008-09	1,482,000
2009-10 (forecast)	1,962,000

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the study commissioned to explore technological or process improvements that can be made to speed up drying out and stabilising building recovery after a flood; and when he expects a programme of work based on that study to be established. [306331]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the December 2009 progress report on the Government's response to Sir Michael Pitt's review of the summer 2007 floods, recommendation 73.

DEFRA and the Communities and Local Government Department commissioned a desk-based study to look at current guidance on speeding up drying out and stabilisation after a flood and how it might be used better. This study is now complete. A project is being set up with the Environment Agency and the Association of British Insurers to develop a document pointing to existing advice on how best to achieve drying out. We are on track to meet recommendation 73 by spring 2010.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of use of water meadows in preventing flooding; and if he will make a statement. [308342]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The impact that storing water in flood meadows may have on alleviating flooding in any particular location will depend on the hydrological characteristics of the catchment and the storage capacity and position of the flood meadow. If a water meadow is in a suitable location and has appropriate hydrology to be a flood storage area, it will be assessed in the same way as any other potential flood storage area. Therefore, where there are water meadows, or a water meadow could be created, the Environment Agency or other operating authorities assess the effectiveness of their use for flood alleviation on a case-by-case basis.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what has been the cost benefit analysis applicable to each of the flood defence schemes given approval within the last 12 months, excluding minor schemes progressed by local authorities. [309278]

Huw Irranca-Davies: All flood defence schemes given approval in the last 12 months were reviewed for compliance with DEFRA project appraisal guidance and the Treasury Green Book. Benefit cost ratios (BCRs) are fundamental to this approach as they provide a transparent and inclusive approach to decision making that takes all relevant factors into account. While maximising the BCR often indicates the most economically worthwhile scheme option, the decision-making process takes into account reasonable expectations about the standard of protection appropriate t[illegible] location. Therefore, while the overall BCR of t[illegible]vironment Agency's capital programme is currently 8:1; this includes a wide range of individual scheme BCRs above and below the programme average.

The following table shows the benefit cost ratio for a sample of ten significant schemes that have had their business cases approved since Christmas 2008. This group represents a total spend of £51 million, and has an average benefit cost ratio that well exceeds our target of five[1].

[1] Target for Outcome Measure 1—CSR2007 (an Environment Agency performance measure set by DEFRA)

Project title	*Environment Agency Region*	*Benefit cost ratio*	*Total cost (£ million)*
Altmouth Urgent Works	North West	12.9	10.8
Burstwick Drain	North East	5.5	2.5
Cannington Outfalls	South West	20.0	1.0
Gunness	Midlands	90.2	2.3
Newmans Sluice	Anglian	3.1	3.7
Upper Mole Flood Alleviation scheme	Thames	26.5	16.0
Thames and Palace Wharves	Thames	7.1	2.1
Welches Dam Pumping Station Refurbishment	Anglian	35.0	6.6
Dog in a Doublet Sluice	Anglian	20.0	2.0
Pevensey Outfalls Reconstruction	Southern	20.8	4.0

Higher Level Schemes

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Higher Level schemes cost in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [308239]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme is delivered by Natural England on behalf of DEFRA.

Natural England was allocated £13,600,000 in 2008-09 (the same amount as in 2007-08) to cover its direct costs in delivering the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) under the common agricultural policy. The HLS scheme is but one component. In addition to this allocation, some £22,400,000 (£28,726,000 in 2007-08) was allocated to Natural England to cover the costs of DEFRA's Genesis IT system which is the IT system used to manage and administer the RDPE. These running costs include depreciation, cost of capital and third party support.

Nature Conservation: British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1213-4W, on nature conservation: British Overseas Territories, what projects have *(a)* received and *(b)* been allocated funds from the £188,294 of funding for British Caribbean Overseas Territories under the Darwin initiative for 2009-10; and how much each such project was allocated. [309225]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following Darwin Initiative projects in the UK's Caribbean Overseas Territories were allocated and provided with funds from the 2009-10 Darwin funding round. For main projects and post projects, project leaders can claim for up to 75 per cent. of their annual award in advance, but the final amount is withheld pending submission of annual or final reports, and/or meeting other agreed targets.

Although we can confirm actual expenditure from the Darwin Initiative, it is for the recipient organisation to confirm whether it has received the funding.

Project	Allocated	£ Approved for payment at time of writing
Commonwealth Foundation project to build civil-society capacity for conservation across the Caribbean Overseas Territories	117,150	87,862
Montserrat post-project aiming to reduce impact of feral livestock in Centre Hills	71,144	53,538
Total	188,294	141,400

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1379W, on Overseas Territories: nature conservation, what biodiversity projects are being funded from the additional £1.5 million announced by the Minister with responsibility for the marine and natural environment my hon. Friend for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies). [309226]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This additional funding for biodiversity projects in Overseas Territories is part of round 17 of the Darwin Initiative. We expect to announce the results of round 17 in the spring.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 19 October 2009, on nature conservation: British Overseas Territories, which British Overseas Territories have applied for funding under the Darwin Initiative's new Overseas Territories Fund; and in respect of what projects those territories have made such applications. [309272]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The first round of the Overseas Territories Challenge Fund was launched on 25 November 2009. The deadline for proposals to be submitted is 19 February 2010 and once the deadline has passed I shall write to the hon. Member with this information.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 19 October 2009, on nature conservation: British Overseas Territories, what projects have *(a)* received and *(b)* been allocated funding from the £27,856 for South Atlantic Overseas Territories under the Darwin Initiative for 2009-10. [309273]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following Darwin Initiative projects in the UK's South Atlantic Overseas Territories were allocated funds from the 2009-10 Darwin funding round. The payment made to date is also shown. For clarity, scoping projects are normally paid in arrears. For post projects, project leaders can claim for up to 75 per cent. of their annual award in advance, but the final amount is withheld pending submission of annual or final reports, and/or meeting other agreed targets. Although we can confirm actual expenditure from the Darwin Initiative, it is for the recipient organisation to confirm whether it has received the funding.

Project	Allocated	£ Received at time of writing
Tristan da Cunha post-project to build capacity for the marine environment for conservation	21,856	1,250
Falklands scoping project working towards a biodiversity inventory and conservation	3,000	0
St. Helena scoping project developing conservation in its Millennium forest	3,000	0
Total	27,856	1,250

Office of Water Services: Hotels

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Office of Water Services has spent on hotel accommodation for its officials in each of the last five years. [306044]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It has not been possible to provide figures for hotel accommodation for the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 because previous recording methods meant it was not possible to separate such spending. Available information is set out in the table.

	Hotel expenditure (£)
2006-07	22,873
2007-08	15,966
2008-09	23,764

Office of Water Services: Internet

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what redesigns of websites operated by the Office of Water Services have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306211]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have asked Ofwat to write to the hon. Member for Monmouth directly with this information.

Rodents

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of trends in *(a)* the rat population and *(b)* the incidence of household rat infestations. [308637]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A copy of the latest report on rodent presence in domestic properties as revealed by the English House Condition Survey data for 2002-03 and 2003-04 has been placed in the House of Commons Library. The key finding is that the occurrences of rats inside and outside properties in these years are not significantly different from those observed in 2001.

The next report covering the period up to 2006 should be available in 2010, although at present there is no set date for publication.

Sewers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects private sewers and lateral drains connected to public sewers to be transferred to water company ownership; and if he will make a statement. [308070]

Huw Irranca-Davies: On 15 December 2008, the Government announced that the transfer of all private sewers and lateral drains linked to the public sewerage system to water company ownership would take place from 2011. Transfer is the only comprehensive solution to the range of problems presented by private sewers.

I anticipate consulting on the content of regulations to effect transfer in the new year, prior to them being presented to Parliament for approval.

Wildlife

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what species of wildlife *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Natural England (i) has re-introduced to England since 1997 and (ii) plans to re-introduce to England. [308570]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA itself has not reintroduced, and does not plan to reintroduce, any species to England.

Since 1997 Natural England and its predecessor bodies have, with partners, re-introduced into England the following four species, which had previously become extinct:

Corncrake (Crex crex)
Pool Frog (Rana lessonae)
Pedunculate Sea-purslane (Atriplex pedunculata)
Interrupted Brome (Bromus interruptus)

Natural England is involved in planning the reintroduction of the following two species into England:

White-tailed Sea Eagle (Haliaeetus albicilla)
Short-haired Bumblebee (Bombus subterraneus)

These projects will only go ahead if the required licences are secured and they are shown to meet internationally agreed guidelines produced by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Natural England has spent on re-introducing species of wildlife to England in each year since 1997. [308571]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA itself has not spent money on re-introducing species of wildlife to England.

Natural England has spent the following amounts on re-introducing wildlife species in England:

	£
2007-08	25,000
2008-09	26,000

They plan to spend £52,000 in 2009-10.

The figures quoted are part of the cost of Natural England's Species Recovery programme, of which re-introduction is one component.

Information regarding any such expenditure by Natural England's predecessor, English Nature, is not readily available at this time.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made in his Department's review of permitted development rights for telecommunications. [307830]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has recently reviewed the permitted development rights for telecommunications.

The Killian-Pretty progress report, published on 30 July 2009, explained that in relation to telecommunications equipment, the Government have considered whether the existing permitted development rights contained in part 24 of the General Permitted Development Order should be altered and whether the system of prior approval for stand alone telephone masts below 15 metres and certain rooftop mast installations should be amended to require a full planning application. It had decided to make no substantive change to the current regime.

However, in order to ensure that operators make the best possible use of existing sites, the Government intends to amend planning policy guidance in due course, to strengthen the requirements for operators to demonstrate that they have considered alternative sites and explain why they have been rejected. We will also consider how requirements for mast sharing can be further addressed in any revision of the code of best practice.

Affordable Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage pension funds to invest in new social housing. [308271]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Board of the Tenant Services Authority (TSA), the regulator of social housing in England, has recently approved and published its Private Finance Strategy. The strategy identifies the future funding requirement of the registered social landlord (RSL) sector and the funding capacity in both the banking and capital markets.

In the past 18 months RSLs have raised over £1.6 billion through the capital markets. Investors in these bond issues include both pension and life funds. The finance raised will fund both new development of social housing and investment in the existing stock of RSLs.

Affordable Housing: Derbyshire

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes have been built in *(a)* Chesterfield constituency and *(b)* Derbyshire in each of the last 12 months. [309017]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on affordable homes built is not available by constituency.

The HCA has published statistics on the number of affordable homes delivered under the National Affordable Housing Programme for up to the first six months of 2009-10.

The following table shows the number of new build homes delivered through HCA funding in Derbyshire county during each of the 12 months to September 2009.

New build affordable homes provided with funding through the HCA

	Derbyshire county
October 2008	0
November 2008	40
December 2008	60
January 2009	20
February 2009	30
March 2009	90
April 2009	0
May 2009	0
June 2009	10
July 2009	100
August 2009	20
September 2009	0
Total with HCA funding[1]	360

[1] The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10, so the totals may not sum due to rounding.

Total affordable housing supply includes social rent, intermediate rent and Low Cost Home Ownership. Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. The latest data on total gross affordable supply relate to 2008-09. In 2008-09, 60 affordable homes were provided in Chesterfield borough council and 540 in Derbyshire county council. These figures are from the Homes and Communities Agency and local authority returns to CLG (new build and acquisitions).

Arms Length Management Organisations

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what oversight functions the *(a)* Local Government Ombudsman, *(b)* Tenant Services Authority, *(c)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(d)* district auditor has in relation to arms' length management organisations. [308311]

Mr. Ian Austin: The jurisdiction of the Local Government Ombudsman is to investigate complaints by members of the public against local authorities and their ALMOs. It will only consider complaints after individuals have gone through these organisations' own complaints procedures.

The Tenants Services Authority was set up on 1 December 2008 and assumed the regulatory role for registered social landlords previously held by the Housing Corporation. The Tenant Services Authority will—subject to parliamentary approval—take on the role of regulating local authority social housing, including ALMOs, from April 2010.

The Homes and Communities Agency was set up on 1 December 2008 and has day-to-day responsibility for delivery of the Decent Homes programme, and provides support and guidance to ALMOs on the delivery of their investment programmes.

In order to access its Decent Homes funding an ALMO must first be inspected by the Housing Inspectorate which is part of the Audit Commission. The ALMO must achieve at least a two star rating at inspection. The Audit Commission provides advisory services to local authorities and ALMOs seeking to achieve two stars at inspection. The Commission can also, on request, provide tailored consultancy services to ALMOs seeking re-inspection.

Building Alterations

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of funds for independent living adaptations and equipment was spent on *(a)* owner-occupied, *(b)* private rented, *(c)* local authority-owned and *(d)* housing association housing by each local authority in each of the last five years. [308400]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local authorities are required to complete and return an annual claim and monitoring form to the Department for Disabled Facilities Grants. The information collected through this exercise was recently expanded and now includes a breakdown of expenditure on Disabled Facilities Grant by housing tenure (excluding expenditure on adaptations to local authority tenants which is funded separately through the Housing Revenue Account). The most recent data collection exercise (2009-10) is nearly complete; this was the first year that these data included a breakdown by tenure and we will be publishing the figures for 2008-09 early in the new year. Prior to 2008-09 this information was not collected.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding he has allocated for the purposes of making alterations to homes in order to meet higher environmental standards in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [308769]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Business Plan Statistical Appendix gives a breakdown of local authorities' recorded and proposed expenditure on capital works, including replacement of windows, doors, central heating systems and installation of insulation, all of which may contribute directly to improving the environmental performance of dwellings as well as delivering other benefits. The latest figures show that these works account for £751.2 million (26.6 per cent. of recorded spend) in 2008-09 and £832.7 million (29.4 per cent. of proposed spending) in 2009-10. This does not include spending by registered social landlords.

The Social Housing Energy Saving programme, which is administered by the Homes and Communities Agency, has allocated £54.5 million in 2009-10, and £23.9 million for 2010-11, for works to install cavity wall insulation in harder to treat social rented properties.

Community Relations: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to page 12 of his Department's resource Accounts for 2008-09, HC449, what the reasons are for the delay in various Preventing Extremism programmes; and what steps he is taking to reduce them. [308309]

Mr. Malik: The under-spend, as set out in the Department's resource accounts for 2008-09, was a result of minor delays in delivering or paying for some projects, which were therefore moved into 2009-10. Those projects are now proceeding.

Conservation Areas

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what single conservation areas the Homes and Communities Agency has established; and which local authorities each area covers. [308052]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 136W, in response to this same question.

Council Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has provided guidance to local authorities on the practice known as gatekeeping in relation to tenants who remain in properties after their notice to leave has expired. [309048]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has issued statutory guidance to local authorities about responding to tenants of private landlords who apply to the local authority for housing assistance following receipt of a notice of intention to recover possession from their landlord. The guidance, at paragraph 8.30 et seq of the 'Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities', was issued in July 2006. The code of guidance is available in the House of Commons Library and on this Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/homelessnesscode.

Council Housing: Rents

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 23 June 2009, *Official Report*, columns 831-2W, on council housing: rents, if he will publish figures for *(a)* the cumulative arrears of rent, *(b)* former tenants' cumulative arrears of rent and *(c)* total cumulative arrears as a percentage of rent roll for each local authority in each of the last five years. [308390]

Mr. Ian Austin: A table containing this information, as reported to Communities and Local Government by local authorities, has been placed in the Library of the House.

The information is that submitted by local authorities in their second advance housing revenue account subsidy claim forms for the relevant year. It is un-audited and unchecked data that is not used within housing revenue account subsidy calculations. The information is in some cases incomplete.

Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman) of19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1297W, on council tax: energy, if he will place in the Library a copy of each representation the Energy Saving Trust has made to his Department. [308803]

John Healey: I have placed a copy of the representations that the Energy Saving Trust made to this Department on council tax: energy, in the Library of the House.

Demolition

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings have been demolished in each Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder area since 2002-03; and at what cost. [307835]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins) on 21 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1503-04W.

HMR Pathfinders have been allocated more than £2 billion since 2002-03 although the programme focuses much more on the refurbishment and renewal of existing stock than demolition. Allocations to HMR Pathfinders are made for whole programmes, and not for individual elements, on the basis of strategies set out in their business plans. It is for individual Pathfinders to judge how much should be spent on particular activities such as demolitions, taking into account the stage of the regeneration process in their area and local market conditions.

Departmental Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to his Department of engaging each individual consultant was in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 to date. [308248]

Barbara Follett: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 777W.

Emergency Calls: East Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* genuine and *(b)* bogus (i) fire, (ii) ambulance, (iii) police and (iv) coastguard emergency calls have been received in East Sussex in each year since 2003. [309200]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether his Department has provided guidance to local authorities on the circumstances in which empty dwelling management orders may be issued in respect of an empty dwelling which is being marketed for sale; [308425]

(2) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 488W, on empty dwelling management orders, which local authorities have received individual guidance provided by his officials in the last 12 months. [308710]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department has not issued separate guidance on empty dwellings which are being marketed for sale but supports the guidance on empty dwelling management orders which was launched by the independent Empty Homes Agency on 10 March 2009.

The Department hosted an empty homes seminar for a number of local authorities on 23 April 2009 to provide an opportunity to discuss the obstacles facing authorities in dealing with empty homes, share examples of best practice, and encourage them to take action to tackle empty homes in their area. The following individual local authorities were represented at the meeting:

Birmingham City Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Exeter City Council
Gloucester City Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Kent County Council
Manchester City Council
Mansfield District Council
Reading Borough Council
Sheffield District Council
Warwick Borough Council
West Lindsey District Council,

as well as the West London Housing Partnership, representing seven London boroughs, and the Herts, Beds, Bucks Empty Homes Forum, representing 24 local authorities. A further eight local authorities were invited but were unable to attend. Local authorities contact my officials on an ad hoc basis for which we do not keep records and they can also access information about empty homes on the Department's website.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingmanagementcare/emptyhomes/

English Partnerships Millennium Communities Advisory Panel

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the English Partnerships Millennium Communities Advisory Panel. [308533]

Mr. Ian Austin: English Partnerships did not set up an advisory panel to manage the Millennium Communities programme.

European Regional Development Fund

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department holds copies of the European Commission audit reports relating to his Department's administration of the European Regional Development Fund. [308421]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Yes. Auditors from the European Court of Auditors and the European Commission carry out audits on English ERDF programmes. This is to ensure that they are managed in compliance with the financial control requirements of the European Commission Regulations and Directives. Their audit reports are sent to this Department, as Managing Authority for the programmes.

European Regional Development Fund

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals were engaged by his Department from consultant firms to work on the European Regional Development Fund closure programme for English regions; and on what matters each is working. [308247]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My Department has engaged 13 individuals from consultancy firms to work on the closure of the 2000-06 programmes. Nine of them are setting up and implementing a Programme Management Office to oversee the work on closure. The nine individuals are employed by my Department on a part-time basis and their work is interchangeable, so they do not have individual tasks allocated to them. A further four individuals, qualified accountants and forensic accountants, are engaged by my Department through another consultancy firm, to advise on finance issues related to the closure process.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many co-responding firefighters there are in each fire authority area in England. [308232]

Mr. Malik: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Flats: Construction

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of new dwellings completed in 2008-09 were flats. [308592]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on the proportion of new build dwellings completed in 2008-09 that were flats is published in live table 254 on the Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table254.xls

The figures are shown as proportions and not numbers since the estimates are based on incomplete coverage of new build completions.

Floods: Gloucestershire

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much the Government has spent in total across Government Departments to support recovery in *(a)* Gloucester City and *(b)* Gloucestershire since the 2007 floods; [308138]

(2) what resources his Department has made available to Gloucester City to support flood recovery since the 2007 floods; [308135]

(3) what resources his Department has made available to Gloucestershire to support flood recovery since the 2007 floods; [308136]

(4) what resources his Department has co-ordinated across Government to support flood recovery in Gloucestershire since the 2007 floods. [308137]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Following the flooding of summer 2007, the Government made available a comprehensive package of support for those communities most badly affected. This included Flood Recovery Grant, funding from the Bellwin Scheme, the Restoration Fund and funding for council tax relief, all of which were administered by Communities and Local Government (CLG). The Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) provided funding for schools and children's services and the Department of Transport (DFT) provided funding for repairs to highways and transport infrastructure. Details of the support given to local authorities within Gloucestershire are shown in the following table.

The total package of support to all local authorities in Gloucestershire was £29,137,517.

Local authority	*Support*	*Amount(£)*
Cheltenham borough council	Flood Recovery Grant (CLG)	646,500
	Bellwin Scheme (CLG)	48,361
	Restoration Fund (CLG)	1,774,306
	Council Tax Funding (CLG)	2,611
	Sum of total funding	2,471,778
Cotswold district council	Flood Recovery Grant (CLG)	663,500
	Bellwin Scheme (CLG)	87,432
	Restoration Fund (CLG)	330,316
	Council Tax Funding (CLG)	21,722
	Sum of total funding	1,102,970
Forest of Dean district council	Flood Recovery Grant (CLG)	23,000
	Restoration Fund (CLG)	13,324
	Council Tax Funding (CLG)	2,728
	Sum of total funding	39,052
Gloucester city council	Flood Recovery Grant (CLG)	696,500
	Bellwin Scheme (GLG)	189,361
	Restoration Fund (CLG)	191,016
	Council Tax Funding (CLG)	10,209
	Sum of total funding	1,087,086
Gloucestershire police authority	Bellwin Scheme (CLG)	955,420
	Restoration Fund (CLG)	60,639
	Sum of total funding	1,016,059
Stroud district council	Flood Recovery Grant (CLG)	60,000
	Bellwin Scheme (CLG)	8,673
	Sum of total funding	68,673
Tewkesbury borough council	Flood Recovery Grant (CLG)	673,500
	Bellwin Scheme (CLG)	351,073
	Restoration Fund (CLG)	216,919
	Council Tax Funding (CLG)	233,000
	Sum of total funding	1,474,492
Gloucestershire county council	Funding from DCSF	1,007,900
	Funding from DFT	16,548,000
	Bellwin Scheme (CLG)	2,807,644
	Restoration Fund (CLG)	1,513,863
	Sum of total funding	21,877,407

Homelessness: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* rough sleepers and *(b)* homeless people there were in Nottingham North constituency in (a) 1997 and (b) the latest period for which figures are available. [308993]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information on rough sleeping has been collected since 1998 and a street count conducted in Nottingham in 1998 found 14 rough sleepers. The last street count took place in 2008 and found three rough sleepers.

Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library and via the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessq32009.

Data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available, and this information is also collected.

Data are not collected at constituency level. Nottingham North constituency falls within the north-western part of the City of Nottingham unitary authority. The numbers of households accepted as statutory homeless in the City of Nottingham in 1997-98 and 2008-09 are 908 and 633 respectively. The number of households accommodated by the City of Nottingham in temporary accommodation as at 31 December 1997 is 148 and as at 30 September 2009 is 74.

Homes and Communities Agency: Equal Opportunities

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what proportion of staff of the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenant Services Authority are (i) women and (ii) from black and minority ethnic groups; [308771]

(2) what guidance his Department has provided to the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenant Services Authority on diversity. [308772]

John Healey: With respect of the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), 56 per cent. of staff are female and 11 per cent. are from black and minority ethnic groups, and for the Tenants Services Authority (TSA), 59 per cent. of staff are female and 19 per cent. are from black and minority ethnic groups.

The HCA has developed its own Single Equality scheme 'Diverse intentions' published in November 2009

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/equality

This covers all of HCA's functions as a housing and regeneration delivery agency, and as an employe[illegible]

In addition, the TSA is about to publish it's Single Equalities scheme setting how it will fulfil its obligations and wider role on equality issues.

Homes and Communities Agency: Pay

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any staff of the *(a)* Homes and Communities Agency and *(b)* Tenant Services Authority earn salaries of over £194,250. [308770]

John Healey: Details of remuneration for senior staff for both the Homes and Communities Agency and the Tenants Services Authority are shown in each organisation's financial statements for 2008-09, copies of which were laid in the House.

Homes and Communities Agency: Public Relations

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman) of 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1345W, on the Homes and Communities Agency: public relations, when a copy of the briefs and contract will be placed in the Library. [308814]

John Healey: I have placed a copy of the contract briefs in the Library of the House. The actual contracts are commercially sensitive and cannot be made available.

Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of households in *(a)* owner-occupier, *(b)* private rented and *(c)* social rented accommodation was estimated to be overcrowded in (i) England and (ii) each English region in (A) 1997 and (B) 2008. [304515]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table provides estimates of the percentage of households that were overcrowded by tenure for each English region and for England for 1996-97 (three-year average 1994-95 to 1996-97). Estimates for 2007-08 (three-year average 2005-06 to 2007-08) are available in table 1.15 of "Housing in England 2007-08", which is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1346249.pdf

A three-year average is used due to small sample sizes. Estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing and overcrowding is defined according to the bedroom standard.

Rate of overcrowding by tenure and region[1], 1994-95 to 1996-97

	Percentage of households overcrowded			
	Average 1994-95 to 1996-97			
	Owner occupiers	*Social renters*	*Private renters*	*All tenures*
North East	1.7	2.4	4.4	2.1
North West	2.2	4.6	3.2	2.8
Yorks and Humber	1.5	2.8	3.2	2.0
East Midlands	1.5	4.0	2.0	2.1
West Midlands	2.5	4.2	2.0	2.8
East	1.1	3.7	1.3	1.6
London	3.0	9.9	5.3	5.3
South East	1.0	4.5	2.8	1.8
South West	0.8	4.2	1.9	1.5
England	1.7	4.9	3.1	2.6

[1] Due to small sample sizes a three-year average is used.

Source:

Survey of English Housing.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the terms are of the agreement between the Homes and Communities Agency and the South East England Development Agency on the establishment of a special purpose vehicle. [307849]

John Healey: No formal approach has been made to either CLG, BIS or HM Treasury by SEEDA or the HCA on a proposal to create a special purpose vehicle. Any such vehicle would need ministerial approval before commencing.

Housing: Armed Forces

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers and responsibilities local authorities have to rehouse armed forces personnel who have served in Afghanistan and their families. [308646]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government recognise the immense contribution of the armed forces and are committed to ensuring that current and ex-service personnel have access to the accommodation they and their families need.

Local authorities have powers to provide social housing (either within their own stock or by nomination to housing associations in their district) for any armed forces personnel (or people who have left the armed forces) and their families who choose to make an application.

Local authorities must allocate social housing according to their allocation scheme. Statutory guidance published by this Department last month ("Fair and flexible: Statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England"), makes clear that those in greatest housing need must be given priority. But it also gives councils more freedom to allocate their homes according to needs specific to their local area.

To improve access to social housing, we have changed the legislation to enable service personnel to establish a 'local connection' in the district in which they are serving. Changes to the local connection provisions were made by the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 and were brought into force on 1 December 2008. These changes enable service personnel to establish a local connection with the district where they live or work while serving in the forces. These changes improve the position of service personnel by ensuring that their priority for social housing is not undermined, and that they are treated on the same basis as civilians in a similar situation.

Under the homelessness legislation, local authorities must secure suitable accommodation for applicants who are eligible for assistance (certain categories of person from abroad are ineligible), homeless through no fault of their own and who fall within a priority need group. The priority need groups include people who are vulnerable as a result of having been a member of Her Majesty's regular naval, military or air forces.

Housing: Databases

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1393W, on housing: databases, what annual payment is made by the Valuation Office Agency to Ordnance Survey to licence the datasets to undertake the geo-referencing; what other payments are made by the Valuation Office Agency to Ordnance Survey in relation to the work; what the total monetary value of such other payments has been to date; and whether Ordnance Survey receives any data or benefit in kind from the Valuation Office Agency as part of this work. [308385]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is entitled to receive a variety of Ordnance Survey datasets as a member of the Pan Government Agreement, for which it contributes to a central annual payment by Government under the terms of the agreement.

In addition Ordnance Survey and the VOA have been working together to align their spatial address databases as part of their joint commitment to Smarter Government.

Under this collaboration, Ordnance Survey supplies VOA with a copy of OS MasterMap® Address Layer 2 for which no charge is made by Ordnance Survey.

VOA has two address databases covering properties subject to council tax and premises subject to non domestic rates respectively. Under the joint collaboration, the VOA provides Ordnance Survey with a copy of the council tax address data which Ordnance Survey matches to its own address database. Ordnance Survey provides the VOA with information on any corrections to the post code information held within the VOA's council tax database, which have been identified by the address matching process. No charge is made by the VOA for supplying the council tax address data and no payments are made by the VOA to Ordnance Survey in respect of the information provided to the VOA by Ordnance Survey as a result of the address matching work it undertakes.

Following the address matching process, Ordnance Survey includes the VOA's Unique Address Reference Number (UARN) within OS MasterMap Address Layer 2, and also within a table of cross references to others' unique address identifiers. This cross reference table is available from Ordnance Survey free of charge.

Ordnance Survey licences the non domestic rates address data from the VOA for address matching against Ordnance Survey's address database, on the VOA's standard commercial terms.

Housing: Energy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average *(a)* current and *(b)* potential energy efficiency rating band is for homes in each local authority area. [308065]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1283W.

Housing: Immigrants

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of all housing demand was due to net migration into England in the latest period for which figures are available. [307072]

John Healey: It is not possible to measure historical demand for housing; the principal proxy of the gross number of new households that have recently formed is derived from the Survey of English Housing.

Housing: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding under the Housing Pledge is planned to be spent in Nottingham North constituency in the next 12 months. [309019]

John Healey: The Housing Pledge is delivered through the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), which operates and plans at a local authority level. Information on allocations under the housing stimulus package can be found on the HCA's website at:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/housing_stimulus.htm

Housing: Prices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 305W, on housing: prices, what the average sale price of a home in a rural area was in each of the last 20 quarters. [306907]

Mr. Ian Austin *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: The average sale price of a home in a rural area in England for each of the last 20 quarters is presented as follows:

	Rural local authorities (£)
2004 Q3	200,243
2004 Q4	195,975
2005 Q1	193,143
2005 Q2	194,136
2005 Q3	204,101
2005 Q4	200,898
2006 Q1	198,087
2006 Q2	206,877
2006 Q3	220,529
2006 Q4	215,846
2007 Q1	215,174
2007 Q2	221,059
2007 Q3	236,318
2007 Q4	230,787
2008 Q1	224,794
2008 Q2	224,230
2008 Q3	232,640
2008 Q4	211,976
2009 Q1	200,579
2009 Q2	205,361

Notes:

1. Local authorities that are classed as rural under the DEFRA rural codes have been included and local authorities classed as urban by DEFRA have been filtered out.
2. Data for 2009 Q2 are provisional.
3. Figures are neither seasonally adjusted nor adjusted to take into account the differing mix of properties sold in each period, so comparisons between quarters are not recommended.

Source:

Land Registry.

Housing: Standards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost of building a home which meets the *(a)* Lifetime Home Standard and *(b)* Code for Sustainable Homes Level (i) four, (ii) five and (iii) six. [307887]

Mr. Ian Austin: In "Code for Sustainable Homes: Impact assessment—December 2009", published 18 December 2009, page 73, figure 38 sets out the range of costs for building to the Lifetime Homes Standard as being between £575 and £875. This impact assessment supports the consultation on the Code for Sustainable Homes.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 278W.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he plans to issue guidance to potential bidders for construction of the new eco-quarters on the submission of proposals for the development of land on or adjacent to *(a)* flood plains, *(b)* green fields, *(c)* green belt, *(d)* areas of outstanding natural beauty and *(e)* sites of special scientific interest; [308534]

(2) what timetable has been set for the construction of homes in the new eco-quarters; what target has been set in respect of the number of homes to be built; and to what Code for Sustainable Homes level such homes will be built; [308536]

(3) what targets for *(a)* waste reduction and *(b)* car usage he plans to set for the new eco-quarters. [308584]

John Healey: In my written ministerial statement of 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 119WS, I announced the responses we had received to take forward exemplar green developments to the standards that we set out in "Planning Policy Statement: eco-towns" (PPS), published on 16 July 2009. The PPS sets out the planning context and the standards, including for homes, waste and transport that these developments must meet. The PPS should also be read alongside the Government's national policies on the different aspects of spatial planning in England, including for housing and green belt development.

I have placed copies of the PPS in the Library of the House.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an assessment of the *(a)* outcomes and *(b)* cost-effectiveness of the millennium communities scheme. [308538]

Mr. Ian Austin: The millennium communities is an active programme that is demonstrating how mixed-use, environmentally positive communities can be created on difficult, brownfield sites. It will continue to deliver outputs up to at least 2012. An evaluation of the longer-term outcomes and cost-effectiveness of the Millennium Communities programme would be expected to be undertaken following its completion.

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is responsible for delivering the programme on behalf of Communities and Local Government. Communities and Local Government scrutinises the HCA's expenditure and performance in line with the HCA's Financial Framework, and against the aims and objectives set in the HCA's Corporate Plan.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs Spelman) of 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1346W, on housing: construction, for what reasons no homes had been built in the Hastings Millennium Community at the time of that answer. [308711]

Mr. Ian Austin: Hastings Millennium Community comprises three separate sites; Ore Valley, Station Plaza and West Marina. Development on these sites has been subject to delay for various reasons.

At Ore Valley there has been significant progress as a result, either directly or indirectly, of Homes and Communities Agency funding. A new community centre has already been completed, a college campus is close to completion and an adventure play ground is due to be completed in March 2010. The primary care trust is planning to develop a health centre at the site and improvements are planned at the nearby station. However, delays have resulted from high abnormal development costs and design challenges associated with working in a difficult topography. The housing market in this area is also traditionally weak. This has made it difficult to attract a development partner for the residential elements. Despite this, and the recent market downturn, a development agreement is due to be signed very shortly with Bellway Homes.

At Station Plaza, a new campus facility and health centre are close to completion but the residential element (comprising 103 apartments) has stalled due to the current housing market.

West Marina is subject to revised master planning in order to improve viability and clarify funding requirements.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* length and *(b)* notice period is of the contract of each member of the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [308260]

John Healey: The IPC chair, deputy chairs and commissioners are appointed for five years; however, this can be renewed, subject to satisfactory performance, up to a maximum of eight years.

Subject to paragraph 4(2) in Schedule 1 of the Planning Act 2008, these appointments can be terminated early by the Secretary of State giving three months notice, in writing. A commissioner may also resign, again giving three months notice, in writing.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what declarations of *(a)* interest and *(b)* political activity each member of the Infrastructure Planning Commission has made. [308262]

John Healey: The declarations of interest and political activities of commissioners of the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) are publicly available on the IPC website at:

http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/?page_id=1538

Leasehold: Service Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what means of redress leasehold tenants have in respect of service charges levied by a local authority freehold landlord. [308325]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local authority long leaseholders as well as long leaseholders more generally have a number of rights where service charges are concerned. Key rights are:

The right to ask a leasehold valuation tribunal (LVT) to determine the liability to pay and reasonableness of service charges that they are asked to pay under the terms of their lease, where they contribute towards service charges the costs of which vary;

The right to be consulted where the landlord is to carry out works that will cost an individual more than £250, or a long term agreement where the costs under the agreement will exceed £100 per individual;

The right to ask for information about service charges and insurance of the property, including the right to ask for a summary of service charges and to inspect the supporting documentation and receipts etc.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an estimate of the incidence of the over-charging of leasehold owners of flats on building insurance by property agents who share commission with freeholders. [308701]

Mr. Ian Austin: Information is not available on the number of incidents where leaseholders of flats may have been 'overcharged' in respect of the contributions paid towards the buildings insurance premium as a consequence of commission being paid to the freeholder and/or managing agent. I am not therefore able to provide an estimate.

However, where leaseholders of flats believe that any demand made of them through their service charges for contributions towards building insurance is unreasonable, they have the right to ask a leasehold valuation tribunal to determine the reasonableness of the demand.

Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects regulations on the provisions of section 27 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 to be brought into force. [307870]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Section 27 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 regarding Local Freedoms comes into force on 12 January 2010, two months after Royal Assent. Section 27 does not provide for the making of regulations.

Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to introduce a general power of competence for local authorities. [309006]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Ensuring that councils have a wide range of powers and freedom to support and enable councils to be innovative and act in the local interest is something that this Government have long been committed to, as demonstrated through our introduction of the Well-being power in 2000 and in 2003 through the introduction of new freedoms and flexibilities, such as the power to trade. Following the "Strengthening Local Democracy consultation", Government have legislated to allow local authorities and other best value authorities to take part in mutual insurance arrangements and this consultation also asked whether there are other similar arrangements—beyond mutual insurance—which councils believe could be beneficial but which are potentially out of scope of existing powers .

In "Putting the Frontline First", and again in the pre-Budget report we have also committed to further exploring, subject to the overall fiscal position, what other finance mechanisms, powers and flexibilities could support local authorities to drive growth and innovation most effectively.

In relation to the hon. Member's call for a 'power of general competence', there is a question as to whether, once the inevitable prudential restrictions are applied, such a power would look very different to the current power of well-being. However, these are complex issues, needing careful consideration—which we are committed to taking forward as a matter of priority. The consultation ended on 2 October and we will be publishing our final response in due course.

Local Government Executive

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has issued any recent guidance to local authorities in respect of indirectly elected local authority leaders continuing in office following a change in the political composition of a local authority. [308011]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has issued no such guidance to local authorities.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government grant was per capita for the *(a)* Sevenoaks, *(b)* Sedgefield, *(c)* Chorley and *(d)* average English district in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 2008-09. [308414]

Barbara Follett: The Government grant per capita for Sevenoaks, Sedgefield, Chorley and the average shire districts in England in 1997-98 and 2008-09 is as follows:

		£ per head
	1997-98	*2008-09*
Sevenoaks	60	64
Sedgefield	66	170
Chorley	58	92
Shire districts	65	98

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns for 1997-98 and 2008-09.

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. For 2008-09 it also includes Area Based Grant (ABG).

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Per capita figures are calculated using Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Mid-Year Population estimates for 1997 and 2008.

Comparison across years may not be valid owing to changing local authority responsibilities and local authority reorganisation.

Local Government Finance: Equality

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the likely effects of the proposed new *(a)* public sector equality duty and *(b)* duty to tackle socio-economic disadvantage in the Equality Bill on the (i) local government funding settlement, (ii) the setting of a council tax by local authorities and (iii) the spending allocation decisions of local authorities. [309047]

Barbara Follett: The Government are committed to ensuring that all new burdens falling on local authorities, whether from the Equality Bill or any other policy, are fully considered and properly funded so that there is no upward pressure on council tax bills. Where appropriate, funding is provided through the formula grant system or through specific grants.

The setting of council tax and local spending allocation decisions are a matter for local authorities.

Local Government: Pay

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the average level of *(a)* salary, *(b)* car mileage allowances and *(c)* other allowances received by (i) chief executives, (ii) assistant chief executives and (iii) deputy executives of (A) district councils in Lancashire, (B) unitary councils in Lancashire and (C) metropolitan councils in the north west; and what the average level of fee is for each returning officer in each Lancashire constituency. [308841]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally.

Maps: Databases

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what types of organisation would be entitled to free access to postcode datasets from April 2010 if such datasets were made available for reuse under the Smarter Government strategy; [308240]

(2) what assessment has been made of the likely effects on Government revenue if postcode datasets were made available for reuse as part of the Smarter Government strategy from April 2010. [308241]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department launched a public consultation on 23 December 2009 in order to seek views and comments on what Ordnance Survey datasets should be made available for free re-use under the Making Public Data Public agenda. During the consultation period, the Department will engage with key stakeholders, including Royal Mail which owns the Postcode Address File database, in order to seek their views on elements of the proposals. A final decision on implementation will be taken in light of the outcome to consultation.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to reply to the letter of 29 October 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr G. Jarvis. [309162]

Barbara Follett: My right hon. Friend's letter of 29 October 2009 was transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions who responded to it on 16 December 2009.

Mining: Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of local authorities have produced finalised mineral core strategies. [308261]

Mr. Ian Austin: Some 15 of the 95 anticipated mineral core strategies, or core strategies with a minerals element, have been adopted to date. This represents 16 per cent. of the overall anticipated figure. We expect about a further 50 to be published during 2010 and 2011.

In addition, we estimate that approximately 35 mineral planning authorities are expected to produce mineral development plan documents (DPDs) by the end of 2011, to deal with specific issues and sites, rather than addressing minerals in detail in the core strategy.

Mortgages

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment has been made of the level of availability of mortgages to first-time home-buyers who are unable to provide a substantive deposit. [307886]

Mr. Ian Austin: Mortgage availability for first time buyers with a deposit of 10 per cent. or less has increased since spring 2009. According to Moneyfacts, in November 2009 there were 118 mortgage products available at 90 per cent. LTV or higher and nine at 95 per cent. LTV or higher, compared to 85 at 90 per cent. LTV or higher and three at 95 per cent. LTV or higher in April 2009.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residents in *(a)* the London Borough of Bexley, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* England have received support through the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. [308847]

John Healey: The Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational across England since January 2009. As part of the monitoring arrangements for the scheme, headline data for January to September 2009, provided by local authorities operating the scheme and broken down by Government Office Region, are available on the Department's website. The figures can be assessed using the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics

Figures reported by local authorities from January to September 2009 are provided in a table, which has been placed in the Library of the House.

In the current economic conditions, we have acted rapidly to put in place help and support for households struggling with their mortgage at every stage: from free debt advice when problems start, to free support for cases that reach court. Advice is available to all households struggling with their mortgage, with targeted schemes for those in most need.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 306W, on mortgages: Government assistance, whether he has identified the priority areas in respect of the Mortgage Protection Scheme. [309192]

John Healey: Further to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 306-07W, 56 areas have been identified as priority areas as part of the preventing repossessions awareness campaign.

These are currently:

Barking and Dagenham;
Corby;
Knowsley;
Salford;
Newham;
Walsall;
Redditch;
Halton;
Sandwell;
Wolverhampton;
Nottingham;
Birmingham;
Manchester;
Bolton;
Liverpool;
Sunderland;
Reading;
Wigan;
Swindon;
Northampton;
Kingston-upon-Hull;
Cannock Chase;
Barnsley;
Derwentside;
Doncaster;
Easington;
Luton;
Middlesbrough;
North Lincolnshire;
Nuneaton and Bedworth;
Oldham;
Peterborough;
Rochdale;
Rotherham;
Sedgefield;
South Tyneside;
Stockton-on-Tees;
Stoke-on-Trent;
Tameside;
Tamworth;
Wear Valley;
Wellingborough;
Ashfield;
Blackburn with Darwen;
Blackpool;
Blyth Valley;
Bradford;

Burnley;
Chester-le-Street;
Croydon;
Greenwich;
Lewisham;
Rossendale;
South Holland;
Thurrock; and
Waltham Forest.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 472W, on multiple occupation: licensing, on what date he plans to publish the report by the Building Research Establishment. [305100]

Mr. Ian Austin: We aim to publish the Building Research Establishment (BRE) Report in the next couple of months.

Newham Homes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment was made by the Housing Corporation before its abolition of the work undertaken by Newham Homes; [308312]

(2) if he will require the Tenant Services Authority to undertake an investigation into the appropriateness of the level of service charges being levied by Newham Homes on its leaseholders in Brentwood. [308313]

Mr. Ian Austin: Newham Homes is an arm's length management organisation (ALMO) and not a registered social landlord. As a result of this, no assessment of Newham Homes has been made by either the TSA or its predecessor body, the Housing Corporation.

Tenant Services Authority's remit will not extend to the whole social housing sector until its remaining powers under the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 are commenced in April 2010. This legislation will not provide for the regulation of leasehold properties including those that are managed by social landlords.

However, where leaseholders believe that a demand for service charges is unreasonable they have the right to ask a Leasehold Valuation Tribunal to determine the reasonableness of the demand.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets his Department has set for repair and renovation of the housing stock owned by Newham Homes. [308329]

Mr. Ian Austin: Newham Homes manages the housing stock owned by the London borough of Newham.

Newham Homes currently receives capital funding under the ALMO programme to repair and maintain the housing stock that it manages.

The ALMO is undertaking an investment programme agreed with its local authority, the Department and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA). The capital funding will enable it to achieve the Decent Homes Standard by 2011-12. The HCA was set up on 1 December 2008 and has day-to-day responsibility for delivery of the Decent Homes programme.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the additional net revenue raised from reductions in empty property business rate relief in each year since 2007-08; and what estimate he has made of the change in revenue arising from the end to the lower threshold from April 2010. [308418]

Barbara Follett: The impact assessment of the reforms to the Empty Property business rate relief which came into force on 1 April 2008 estimated that these would increase net tax yields by £950 million in 2008-09, £900 million in 2009-10 and £900 million every year thereafter. The full impact assessment can be seen at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/em/uksiem_20080386_en.pdf

Data on the amount of Empty Property Relief actually paid out are collected annually from local authorities. However, changes in these amounts will not only be due to the recent reforms; other factors like the number, type and value of empty hereditaments will also play their part.

In 2009-10 all empty properties with rateable values up to £15,000 are eligible for full relief from business rates—70 per cent. of all properties are under this threshold and, if empty, are not liable for rates in 2009-10. This temporary measure is providing real help to owners to manage short-term pressures in a difficult property market.

No estimate has been made of the change in revenue arising from the end to the temporary reform of the empty property relief scheme. In the pre-Budget report the Chancellor announced that the temporary increase in the threshold at which an empty property becomes liable for Business Rate Relief is being extended for a further year and that the amount of this threshold has been increased to £18,000. The full pre Budget report can be seen at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr09_completereport.pdf

Regulations and an accompanying impact assessment to give effect to this amount will be brought forward in due course.

Owner Occupation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment was made by his Department's predecessor of the effectiveness of its Open Door scheme to promote home ownership. [307842]

John Healey: I am not aware of any assessment made by this Department's predecessor, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, of the effectiveness of the Open Door scheme to promote home ownership which operated in 1984 and 1985. Further research could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Planning Obligations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes will be made to arrangements for Section 106 agreements consequent on the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy; and whether changes will be made to such arrangements in local authority areas which do not implement the Community Infrastructure Levy. [308297]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 136W.

Planning Permission

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under what circumstances the Highways Agency may *(a)* delay determination by a local authority of a planning application and *(b)* impose conditions which have to be met before the local authority is allowed to determine a planning application. [307822]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Highways Agency are a statutory consultee for the purposes of planning applications. As such they must be formally consulted on relevant planning applications.

By virtue of Article 15 (a) or (b) of the General Development Procedure Order (the GDPO), the LPA must consult the Highways Agency on any planning application for certain specified types of development involving access to a trunk road, or near to certain highways or proposed highways. The LPA cannot determine such applications unless they have been given a direction by the Highways Agency, or the Highways Agency confirms there won't be a direction, or until 28 days (or such longer period as the LPA and Highways Agency agree) have passed without receipt of a direction.

The Highways Agency must also be consulted on planning applications for development on development likely to result in a material increase in the volume or a material change in the character of traffic entering or leaving a trunk road

The Highways Agency may, in providing their comments on such applications, make recommendations as to conditions which they would like [illegible] LPA to impose if planning permission is granted.

Before imposing any conditions recommended by the Highways Agency the LPA must, as with any planning condition, ensure that each condition meets the policy requirements. These are currently set out in circular 11/95, and including 'six tests' which state each condition should be:

necessary

relevant to planning

relevant to the development to be permitted

enforceable

precise and

reasonable in all other respects

CLG are currently consulting on draft policy relating both to planning conditions and to the role of statutory and non-statutory consultees. These consultations were launched on 21 December 2009 and will close on 19 March 2009.

The relevant consultation papers are:

"Improving the use and discharge of planning conditions" and

"Improving engagement by statutory and non-statutory consultees".

These and association documents can be viewed on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/planningpolicyimplementation/reformplanningsystem/killianprettyreview

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 38WS, on departmental expenditure limit (2009-10), what unfunded legal challenges on planning in relation to which legal proceedings have concluded required funding from the £400,000 for West Northamptonshire Development Corporation. [307949]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1302W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill)of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 347W, on planning permission, if he will make it his policy to require local planning authorities who have a hub connector to make it open to the private sector and other third parties who wish to connect for commerce or not-for-profit services. [308389]

Mr. Ian Austin: This would be a matter for decision by individual local authorities.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has plans to adopt the recommendations of the Killian Pretty Review on statutory notices required for planning applications in relation to other types of notice for which his Department is responsible. [309000]

Mr. Ian Austin: In response to the recommendations of the Killian Pretty review, which focused on the planning context, we announced on 21 December that the rules for local authorities advertising planning applications in local newspapers will not change. Any proposals to change the arrangements for other types of statutory notices, for which this Department is responsible, would need to be considered case by case, each on its own merits.

Planning Portal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to privatise the Planning Portal. [307843]

Mr. Ian Austin: We have no plans to privatise the planning portal.

Regional Development Agencies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* statutory and *(b)* non-statutory functions of the regional development agencies are funded by his Department. [309046]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not provide funding for specific statutory or non statutory functions undertaken by the regional development agencies (RDAs). The Department makes an annual contribution to the RDAs' single programme, which is administered by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, as sponsor Department for the RDAs.

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many core strategies have not been found by the Planning Inspectorate to meet the soundness tests in Planning Policy Statement 12. [308255]

Mr. Ian Austin: Eight authorities have had their core strategy development plan documents found unsound on the basis that they failed to meet the soundness tests in Planning Policy Statement 12.

Regional Planning and Development: South West

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 774W, on regional planning and development: South West, what the estimated cost is of the additional work on the South West Regional Spatial Strategy; and what his Department's policy is on the publication of draft and final Regional Spatial Strategy in the period leading up to a general election. [308391]

Mr. Ian Austin: It is not appropriate to release the actual costs for the additional work on the South West Regional Spatial Strategy at this time, as to do so would prejudice commercial interests. I can however indicate that the estimated cost of the additional work is no greater than £50,000. It is the Government's policy not to publish any significant policy documents during an election campaign period, which would begin six weeks prior to the date of a general election.

Regional Planning and Development: Transport

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the effect of predicted future changes in the level of car ownership on future planning policy for *(a)* transport and *(b)* parking. [308625]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department for Transport produces forecasts of travel demand (trips to and from each local authority) within the TEMPRO dataset, which can be obtained free of charge from

www.dft.gov.uk/tempro.

These forecasts are based on demographic data and a car ownership forecasting model (which takes into account GDP). The growth factors from TEMPRO represent the national benchmark for growth in travel demand; as such, TEMPRO is widely used by scheme promoters.

Regional planning bodies and local authorities may take account of TEMPRO and other relevant information when formulating their transport policies. The current set of regional spatial strategies (RSS) combines planning with transport planning to deliver strategic policies to shape the region and guide future transport developments. In future, regional planning bodies will also have regard to national policy statements when preparing the new single regional strategies. The RSS sets parking policies at the region level to ensure a consistent approach is used between local authorities in the area, in order to avoid wasteful competition.

Local authorities are required to have regard to relevant regional and national planning policies when preparing their Local Development Documents (LDDs), including the Core Strategy. The local area will also have a Local Transport Plan (LTP), which sets out the authority's local transport strategies and policies, and an implementation programme. LDDs should have regard to the LTP when identifying and allocating sites for development and formulating objectives for the improvement of the local area. Similarly the recently published statutory LTP guidance emphasises that LTPs should be prepared in the context of the broader policies and objectives contained in relevant regional strategies and should reflect and support local development frameworks.

Local authorities are best placed to determine the parking policies that are appropriate for the local area. Planning Policy Guidance Note 13: Transport (PPG 13) states that these policies "should set maximum levels of parking for broad classes of development", allowing authorities to take account of local factors. Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS 3) notes that specifically in residential areas, parking policy should "take account of expected levels of car ownership, the importance of promoting good design and the need to use land efficiently".

Retail Trade: Planning Permission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to include a competition test in planning requirements for new retail development. [308433]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government are currently considering the recommendation from the Competition Commission for a competition test in planning and will be publishing their response shortly.

Starbucks: Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1401-02W, on Starbucks: planning permission, if he will place a copy of each of the eight Planning Inspectorate reports in the Library. [308386]

Mr. Ian Austin: Copies of the decisions, referred to in the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1401-02W, have been placed in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council England

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if he will publish the hospitality guidelines issued to Arts Council England staff; [308033]

(2) what hospitality was received by *(a)* senior managers and *(b)* board members of Arts Council England in each of the last three years. [307926]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich East. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which council members of Arts Council England have served since January 2005. [308051]

Margaret Hodge: The current members of the Arts Council England are:

Name	*Start date*	*End date*	*Number of terms*
Diran Adebayo	20 October 2004	19 October 2010	2
Janet Barnes	1 February 2005	31 January 2013	2
Jon Cook	8 September 2008	7 September 2012	1
Ekow Eshun	26 January 2009	25 January 2013	1
Dame Liz Forgan (Chair)	1 February 2009	31 January 2013	1
Nicholas Kenyon	3 November 2009	2 November 2013	1
Keith Khan	1 May 2006	30 April 2010	1
Francois Matarasso	1 October 2005	30 September 2013	2
Alice Rawsthorn	1 February 2007	31 January 2011	1
Anil Ruia OBE	24 November 2008	23 November 2012	1
Tom Shakespeare	1 October 2004	30 September 2012	2
Alistair Spalding	26 January 2009	25 January 2013	1
Rosemary Squire	26 January 2009	25 January 2013	1

The former members of the Arts Council England who have served since 2005 are:

Name	*Start date*	*End date*	*Number of terms*
Sir Norman Adsetts	1 June 2002	31 January 2005	1
Andrew Brewerton	6 August 2007	28 February 2009	1
Tom Bloxham MBE	1 June 2002	23 September 2008	2
Dame Deborah Bull	17 June 1998	31 July 2005	3
Kentake Chinyelu-Hope	1 October 2005	30 September 2009	1
Sir Christopher Frayling (Chair)	1 February 2004	31 January 2009	2
Deborah Grubb	1 June 2002	31 July 2005	1
Lady Sue Hollick	1 June 2002	30 September 2009	2
Stephen Lowe	1 June 2002	31 July 2005	2
Alan Livingston	1 June 2002	31 May 2007	2
Sir Brian McMaster	1 July 2002	31 May 2008	2
Elsie Owusu OBE	1 June 2002	31 May 2009	2
William Sieghart	1 July 2000	31 May 2006	2
Stuart Timperley	1 June 2002	31 May 2008	3
Dorothy Wilson	1 June 2002	30 November 2009	2

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) which solicitors' partnerships have been used by Arts Council England in each of the last three years; [308041]

(2) what the names and addresses are of the *(a)* accountancy firms and *(b)* auditors currently used by Arts Council England; [308044]

(3) when Mr. Julian Ravest of Robin and Gorringe was contracted to provide services in respect of Arts Council England's monitoring of the Public arts building project in West Bromwich; and when that contract ended; [307895]

(4) how much was paid to Robin and Gorringe by Arts Council England in each year between 2002 and 2006; [307897]

(5) what consultants were contracted by Arts Council England in relation to The Public arts centre in West Bromwich; [307901]

(6) in which of the last 10 financial years Graham Devlin was employed as a consultant by Arts Council England. [307905]

Margaret Hodge: The issues raised are matters for Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to consider the issues raised and write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) who the *(a)* internal and *(b)* external trustees are of Arts Council England's pension fund; and in which capacity each serves; [308047]

(2) which trade unions are given facility agreements by Arts Council England; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such agreements. [308048]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to consider the issue and write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will commission an inquiry into the value for money of the proposed restructuring of Arts Council England. [308543]

Margaret Hodge: I have no plans to commission such an inquiry.

Arts Council England: Consultants

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to reduce the number of consultants engaged by Arts Council England. [308544]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to consider the issue and to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent reports he has received on Arts Council England hiring outgoing senior employees as consultants. [307380]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 15 December 2009]*: The Department has received no such reports.

Arts Council England: Finance

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the future funding of Arts Council England; and if he will make a statement. [308354]

Margaret Hodge: Officials and Ministers in my Department meet regularly with Arts Council England and current and future funding forms part of those discussions.

Arts Council England: Grants

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to direct the Arts Council to remove questions regarding sexual orientation from its application forms for funding. [307230]

Margaret Hodge: The Arts Council works independently from Government as a non-departmental public body and there is no political interference in its work or its decisions. It would not be appropriate for us to dictate the content of application forms.

The Arts Council has told us the sexual orientation question is due to be removed from their application form in March. They are looking at how best to comply with new duties proposed in the Equality Bill.

Arts Council England: Occupational Pensions

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will require Arts Council England to publish details of its pension deficit on an annual basis. [308355]

Margaret Hodge: Arts Council England publishes details of its pension scheme, including any deficit each year in their annual report and accounts.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent reports he has received on Arts Council England's pension fund deficit. [308358]

Margaret Hodge: Arts Council England report on their pension deficit each year in their annual report and accounts. Valuations take place every three years and the next is due on 31 March 2010.

Broadband

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to commission research into the effects on broadband take-up of the proposed 50 pence per month levy. [308249]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Member for East Ham (Mr. Timms) on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1346W.

Creativity and Business International Network

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 528W, on Creativity and Business International Network: finance, on what the remaining 60 per cent. of the c&binet budget was *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent. [307810]

Mr. Simon: The remaining 60 per cent. of the c&binet budget for 2009-10 was allocated towards activities relating to network development, stakeholder engagement (including obtaining speakers), delegate recruitment, website development and content, overarching co-ordination, media engagement, future development of c&binet and contingency. These categories also represent spend during this period.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307802]

Mr. Simon: Since 1 May 2008, the following new offence has been created by secondary legislation sponsored by DCMS: -

The Audiovisual Media Services Directive Regulations 2009—SI 2009/2979—SI 2009/2979 amends the Communications Act 2003 at section368N to create a criminal offence if a person provides an on-demand programme service when his entitlement to do so is suspended by a direction under section 368K or 368L or in contravention of a restriction contained in such a direction.

Since 1 May 2008, no offences have been abolished by DCMS sponsored secondary legislation.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307944]

Mr. Simon: No new offences have either been abolished or created by primary legislation sponsored by DCMS since 1 May 2008.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 528W, how much of the amount spent on planning and staging the event at The Grove was spent on *(a)* food, *(b)* drink and *(c)* travel to the event. [307809]

Mr. Simon: The gross amount spent on *(a)* food *(b)* drink and *(c)* travel from the budget allocated to planning and staging the event are as follows.

	£
(a)	24,399.05
(b)	6,176.83
(c)	1,907.42

There was also a total amount of £44,297 spent on day delegate rates. This included some provision for food and drink, but also covered other costs such as hotel staff, room hire, use of audio visual equipment and use of hotel facilities.

In addition, from a separate budget, we spent £3,446 on travel to the event for speakers and cabinet ambassadors.

Gambling Act 2005

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 to allow commercial snooker and pool clubs to offer higher prizes on licensed gaming machines on their premises; what timetable he has set for such action; and if he will make a statement. [307873]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Proposals in relation to gaming machines in commercial snooker and pool clubs are being considered as part of my Department's review of category B gaming machines.

I will make an announcement about the review in due course.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many complaints his Department received under the chain-gifting provisions of the Gambling Act 2005 in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [309482]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has not received any complaints under the chain-gifting sections in the Gambling Act 2005 since the provisions came into force in 2007.

Museums and Galleries: West Bromwich

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish (1) all reports produced for the Arts Council England board by Moss Cooper on The Public arts centre in West Bromwich; [307892]

(2) the reports produced by Robin And Gorringe for Arts Council England on The Public arts centre in West Bromwich; [307896]

(3) all reports made to the Capital Projects Board of the Arts Council on the construction of The Public arts centre in West Bromwich between 1995 and 2006; [307899]

(4) the minutes of all discussions the board of Arts Council England has had on The Public arts centre in West Bromwich; [307900]

(5) all correspondence between Sylvia King of The Public arts centre and Sally Luton of Arts Council England between July 2005 and November 2006. [307902]

Margaret Hodge: The issues raised are matters for Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to consider the issues raised and write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich East.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when responsibility for the Public Arts Centre in West Bromwich was transferred from the Capital Projects Office at Arts Council England to Arts Council England West Midlands. [307893]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will publish the reports produced by PricewaterhouseCoopers on the funding of The Public arts centre in West Bromwich before The Public Building Limited went into administration. [307903]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to consider the issues raised and write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the date was of the first grant payment made to C/plex Limited by Arts Council England; [307906]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter from Arts Council England to C/plex Limited on approval of the process of appointment of the architect to design The Public arts centre in West Bromwich. [307907]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for Arts Council England; my Department does not hold the requested information.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Olympic Games 2012: Culture

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* age group in each region have participated in programmes launched as part of the Cultural Olympiad since the inception of those programmes. [307132]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The Cultural Olympiad is a four year developing programme of cultural activity which enables a wide range of people across the UK to celebrate and become involved in the best of British culture. It includes major national projects, a UK-wide cultural festival and annual open weekend celebrations. The London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) does not hold information on participation in Cultural Olympiad programmes by age or sex.

However, three of the Cultural Olympiad's major national projects have already launched. These are: 'Stories of the World', involving 14 regional partners and over 50 museums, libraries and archives across the UK; 'Artists Taking The Lead', which received 2,163 submissions from artists in every nation and region of the UK; and 'Unlimited' which is inviting applications for a £1.5 million commission to support the production of quality work by disabled and deaf artists.

The Inspire Mark programme recognises non-commercial projects which are genuinely inspired or energised by the 2012 Games. According to latest available figures, 142 cultural projects have been awarded the Inspire Mark across the nations and regions of the UK, and form the UK-wide cultural festival. LOCOG estimates that approximately one million people took part in the open weekend celebrations in 2008 and 2009.

Telephone Tapping

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his predecessor had discussions with the Metropolitan Police in 2006 regarding its inquiry into the illegal telephone tapping of her mobile telephone on behalf of media organisations. [307872]

Mr. Bradshaw: My predecessor was contacted by the Metropolitan police on two occasions in 2006 when she was informed that they had evidence that led them to believe that her voicemail had been systematically intercepted in May 2006.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Broadband

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of households in the United Kingdom have access to broadband internet. [309090]

Mr. Timms: According to Ofcom's Communications Market Report published in August 2009, over 99 per cent. of households are connected to a broadband enabled exchange and 65 per cent. of households in the UK subscribe to a fixed broadband connection.

The report can be found at:

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/research/cm/cmr09/cmr09.pdf

Not all households connected to a broadband exchange can in practice access a broadband service. The Digital Britain report estimated that 89 per cent. of UK households can access a broadband service at 2mbps or above.

Broadband: Herefordshire

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answers of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 554W, on broadband: Herefordshire, and pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 831W, on broadband, what his estimate is of the percentage of *(a)* residential and *(b)* business properties which have access to at least two megabits per second of broadband service in Herefordshire; and if he will make a statement. [307285]

Mr. Timms: No such estimate has been made.

Broadband: Kent

Damian Green: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of households in *(a)* Ashford constituency and *(b)* Kent have broadband connections at speeds of (i) 2 Mbps or less and (ii) more than 2 Mbps. [304863]

Mr. Timms: This Department does not hold this information.

Business: Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses have signed up to the Prompt Payment Code in each month since it was introduced; and if he will make a statement. [307821]

Ian Lucas: The following table is taken from data produced by the Institute of Credit Management (ICM). It shows the number of businesses that have signed up since the code was introduced and it is based on the date when the business applied to join.

A full list of all signatories is provided on the ICM website and can be viewed via the following link:

http://212.36.97.5/ppc/signatory.a[illegible]d?uid=634062674

Month	*Number of business applying to join code*
December 2008	2
January 2009	23
February 2009	62
March 2009	34
April 2009	14
May 2009	15
June 2009	26
July 2009	20

Month	*Number of business applying to join code*
August 2009	17
September 2009	19
October 2009	45
November 2009	31

Business: Chesterfield

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* small, *(b)* medium-sized and *(c)* large businesses in (i) Chesterfield constituency and (ii) Derbyshire have received funding under the Regional Loans Transition Fund Scheme. [308996]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In Derbyshire 10 businesses have received funding from the Regional Loans Transition Fund Scheme. Of these, two are within the Chesterfield constituency. All of these are small and medium sized businesses—it is not possible however to split the numbers between these categories.

Business: Credit

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the level of access to credit for small businesses; and if he will make a statement. [305196]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department receives regular representations from banks, businesses, representative bodies and members of the public on financial issues relating to small businesses, including access to credit.

The Department remains committed to ensuring viable businesses secure financial support as is required, and continues to work closely with the banks and business representative bodies through the Small Business Finance Forum. The Forum fosters stronger working relationships and effective communication between all parties, and is informed by the monthly SME bank lending data submitted to BIS by the four main SME lenders.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made in providing venture capital support to small businesses. [307369]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since 2000 national Government have committed £400 million to a range of venture capital funds that have attracted a further £551 million of public sector investment. In 2006 Government established Capital for Enterprise Ltd. as an arm's length body to manage these funds and that body now has more than £951 million under management. These funds have invested in nearly 600 businesses.

The enterprise capital funds are Government's current main equity programme which continue to invest in early stage technology-orientated SMEs, together with the Aspire fund for female entrepreneurs and the capital for enterprise fund—part of the Real Help package. In addition Government are progressing delivery arrangements for the UK innovation investment fund, announced in June this year—as a fund of funds which will invest in underlying technology based funds including those in the healthcare and low carbon sectors. The Government have committed £150 million to this fund leveraging £175 million from the private sector so far, creating a funding pool initially worth £325 million.

The Government's 2009 pre-Budget report announced our intention to establish a new growth capital fund, for SMEs seeking growth capital between £2 million and £10 million and plans are progressing to design and deliver that fund.

These funds are complemented by a range of regional funds operated by the regional development agencies (RDAs). RDAs are currently agreeing plans, totalling around £500 million for further regional fund delivery drawing in EU structural funds from the European regional development fund and additional private sector contributions from Europe.

Business: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the average size was of grants made under the Enterprise Guarantee Scheme to small and medium-sized enterprises in the West Midlands in the latest period for which figures are available. [307315]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 16 December 2009]:* The Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme (EFGS) provides the lender with a guarantee of 75 per cent. of the loan to viable small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on the margins of commercial lending. The scheme was launched in January and, by 9 December, loans worth a total of £64.41 million had been made to 643 businesses in the West Midlands. This represents an average value of £100,171. The Chancellor announced in the pre-Budget report that the scheme would be extended for a further 12 months to 31 March 2011 supporting up to £500 million of further bank loans to businesses across the country. The scheme has been welcomed by business and will play a vital role in encouraging enterprise and investment and driving productivity and growth throughout the UK economy.

Capital for Enterprise

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the *(a)* headcount and *(b)* employment cost was of Capital for Enterprise Limited in the last 12 months. [308401]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The headcount and total employment costs for Capital for Enterprise Ltd. for the 12 months ending 30 November 2009 are listed as follows:

		£
	Staff	*NEDs*
Salaries[1]	740,091	135,000
NIC	72,939	14,403
Pensions	154,509	0
Total	967,539	149,403

	Staff	NEDs
Headcount (average)	[2]13	4

[1] Salary cost includes bonus payments

[2] Based on staff numbers between 10-17

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been paid in bonuses to staff at Capital for Enterprise Ltd. since April 2008. [308403]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Capital for Enterprise Ltd. commenced on 1 April 2008 and established a system whereby work objectives are set and bonuses earned according to performance against those objectives. Approval of bonus payments rests with the remuneration committee. Staff have been paid bonuses of £34,412 under this arrangement.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial performance objectives have been set for the *(a)* Capital for Enterprise Fund and *(b)* UK Innovation Investment Fund. [308404]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The capital for enterprise fund financial performance objective is to make commercial returns commensurate with the instruments used and the risk of the underlying investments. A performance incentive has been created for the manager of the capital for enterprise fund which entitles it to a share of profits once the investors have received a return equivalent to 8 per cent. per annum on their investment in the fund (8 per cent. internal rate of return). This is in line with normal commercial practices

The UK innovation investment fund is a fund of funds. The target financial return is the average of the performance of the top quartile funds available for investment in the relevant vintage years (2010 and 2011), less the fund-of-funds fees. This measure will provide a target for the funds-of-funds to select and manage funds which have the clear potential to be among the top 25 per cent. of funds in their peer group.

Defence and Security Organisation

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the role of the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation is in promoting arms sales; and if he will make a statement. [309359]

Ian Lucas: UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO) was created in UKTI in April 2008 when the lead for supporting UK industry manufacturing defence goods for export was transferred from the Ministry of Defence to the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

UKTI DSO delivers the essential government-to-government dimension in sales providing assistance to defence and security companies based in the UK to promote UK equipment, products and services overseas in a responsible and transparent manner, to help companies succeed.

The defence and security sectors are important elements of the UK economy, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs and contributing billions of pounds annually in exports. UK was the second most successful defence global exporter in 2008 and is recognised as a world leader in the security field.

Departmental Research

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* conducted on barriers to women and those from ethnic minorities establishing businesses. [307228]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Household Survey of Entrepreneurship was conducted by the Department bi-annually between 2001 and 2007. This survey included analysis of barriers to starting a business for women and ethnic minorities.

The Annual Small Business Survey has been used to systematically acquire data on obstacles to success reported by women-led and ethnic minority-led businesses since 2003.

A number of studies focusing on specific issues have also been conducted. These include:

The Government's response to the Ethnic Minority Business Task Force (2009).

The Government's response to the Women's Enterprise Task Force (2009).

Assessing the effectiveness of different forms of support for women's enterprise: the regional women's enterprise initiatives (2008).

Exploring gender differentials in access to business finance: an econometric analysis of survey data (2007).

Finance for small and medium-sized enterprises: comparisons of ethnic minority and white owned businesses (2006).

Women's business ownership: recent research and policy developments (2006).

Sharing the vision: a collaborative approach to increasing female entrepreneurship (2003).

Engaging black and minority ethnic entrepreneurs in business support (2003).

Further details of these and other relevant studies are available on the Publications page of the BIS website:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/publications/reports/index.html

Graduates

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from *(a)* Chesterfield constituency, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England graduated in each year since 1997. [308997]

Mr. Lammy: The latest figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) are shown in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available later in January 2010.

Qualifiers[1] from Chesterfield parliamentary constituency[2], Derbyshire local authority and England. UK Higher Education Institutions: Academic years 1997/98 to 2007/08

Academic year	Chesterfield	Derbyshire	England
1997/98	410	3,755	305,995
1998/99	425	4,045	315,715
1999/00	475	4,055	322,590
2000/01	545	4,425	355,550
2001/02	555	4,585	363,345
2002/03	525	4,800	387,615

Qualifiers[1] from Chesterfield parliamentary constituency[2], Derbyshire local authority and England. UK Higher Education Institutions: Academic years 1997/98 to 2007/08

Academic year	*Chesterfield*	*Derbyshire*	*England*
2003/04	570	5,130	409,965
2004/05	685	5,350	427,900
2005/06	615	5,155	429,845
2006/07	620	5,165	434,335
2007/08	655	5,715	450,990

[1] Covers qualifiers from full-time and part-time postgraduate and undergraduate courses.

[2] The figures for Chesterfield and Derbyshire do not include qualifiers where the parliamentary constituency or local authority area of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid home postcodes.

Notes:

Figures are based on a qualification obtained population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many residents of Nottingham North constituency attended university *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* in the most recent academic year for which figures are available. [309049]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is provided in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available later in January 2010.

Enrolments[1] from Nottingham North constituency[2]. UK Higher Education Institutions[3]: Academic years 1996/97 and 2007/08

Academic year	*Enrolments*
1996/97	855
2007/08	1,160

[1] Covers undergraduate and postgraduate students of all ages enrolled on full-time and part-time courses.

[2] The table does not include enrolments where the constituency of the student cannot be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[3] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of students across the time series.

Notes:

Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1st December and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Radio Frequencies

Peter Luff: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the Programme Making and Special Events sector's ability to migrate into different interleaved frequencies for use of wireless microphones and related technologies since notice of the clearance of existing frequencies was provided in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2007. [308339]

Mr. Timms: The issues surrounding the clearance of the interleaved frequencies used by the Programme Making and Special Events sector, as part of Digital Switchover, have been the subject of extensive consultation by Ofcom. Ofcom's analysis and the responses have been the subject of discussion between BIS and Ofcom and between BIS and the PMSE sector. The Government are currently considering the views of the PMSE sector in the context of the support to be offered in clearing channels 61, 62 and 69 as set out in its Digital Britain report.

Regional Development Agencies: Marketing

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each regional development agency has allocated for spending on advertising, marketing, communications and public relations in 2009-10; what companies each agency has contracted to provide services relating to such matters; what the monetary value is of each such contract; and what services are provided under each such contract. [308697]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Each regional development agency is structured differently to reflect regional priorities. As a result, the information requested is not uniformly recorded or comparable. Each RDA publishes its budget in their annual reports, which are available on the website of each agency and include details of administrative spending.

To provide information for this current financial year, including disaggregated data, could create a misleading impression for the year as a whole and would incur significant and disproportionate costs.

Regional Development Agencies: Pay

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the salary is of the *(a)* chief executive and *(b)* chair of each regional development agency. [308558]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The salary details for chief executives and chairs of each of the eight RDAs (excluding London which is the responsibility of the Mayor) are detailed as follows:

RDA	*Chief executive*	£ *Chair*
Advantage West Midlands	140,772	81,718
East Midlands Development Agency	140,772	81,718
East of England Development Agency	140,772	81,718
Northwest Development Agency	140,772	81,718
ONE North East	140,772	81,718
South East England Development Agency	149,775	[1]54,479
South West Regional Development Agency	140,772	81,718
Yorkshire Forward	131,414	81,718

[1] SEEDA chair remuneration is on the basis of a two day week.

Regional Development Agencies: Political Activities

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to the answer to Lord Bates of 10 November 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 150WA, on regional development agencies, what declaration of political activity has been made by each of the named appointees. [308657]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The declaration of political activity made by each of the named appointees are detailed in the following table.

Political activity declared by RDA board members reappointed in 2009

Member reappointed	*Political activity declaration*	*Regional development agency*
Brendan Connor	None declared	Advantage West Midlands
Peter McCarthy-Ward	None declared	East of England Development Agency
William Pope	None declared	
Lord Edward Iveagh	None declared	
Tricia Pedlar	None declared	East Midlands Development Agency
Haydon Biddle	None declared	
Ruth Thompson OBE	None declared	One North East
Paul Callaghan	None declared	
Councillor Peter Jackson	Conservative Group Leader on Northumberland County Council. He represents Ponteland South with Heddon. He chairs the Council's Scrutiny Management Board and is an Executive Member of the Association of North East Councils.	
Alexander Pratt JP OBE	None declared	South East England Development Agency
Robert Goldfield	None declared	
Pamela Charlwood	None declared	
John Savage CBE	None declared	South West Regional Development Agency
Councillor John Weighell	Conservative Group Leader of North Yorkshire County Council and a Member of Hambleton District Council. He is a member of the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly and Vice-Chair of the Association of North Yorkshire Councils.	Yorkshire Forward

Political activity declared by RDA board members whose terms were extended in 2009

Member extended	*Regional development agency*	*Political activity declaration*
Richard Ellis (Chair)	East of England Development Agency	None declared
Joseph Dwek CBE	North West Regional Development Agency	Has supported both the Labour and Conservative parties
Margaret Fay OBE (Chair)	One North East	None declared
Terry Hodgkinson (Chair)	Yorkshire Forward	None declared

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of people aged 16 to 24 were not in education, employment or training in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area in each quarter of the last 10 years. [303936]

Kevin Brennan: The following table gives the number and percentage of people aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training for each region of England for every quarter from quarter two 2000 to quarter three 2009. These estimates are from the Labour Force Survey.

The Labour Force Survey sample is not large enough to provide quarterly estimates for small geographies such as local authority areas. We are able to give annual estimates for local authorities from the Annual Population Survey, which has a larger sample; for annual estimates for local education authorities from 2000 to 2008. I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1752W, 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 618W, and 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1721W.

People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET)

						Region					
	NEET	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*England*
Q3 2009	Percentage	22.7	21.3	19.4	17.1	19.4	15.3	17.2	15.7	15.6	18.0
	Number	74,000	183,000	126,000	90,000	123,000	92,000	164,000	144,000	86,000	1,082,000
Q2 2009	Percentage	20.9	18.4	18.5	14.0	20.6	13.3	12.6	15.4	11.8	15.9
	Number	69,000	155,000	121,000	75,000	131,000	82,000	120,000	142,000	66,000	959,000
Q1 2009	Percentage	17.8	18.5	16.0	12.9	20.1	13.6	13.9	14.1	13.9	15.6
	Number	57,000	156,000	107,000	69,000	126,000	83,000	127,000	130,000	78,000	935,000
Q4 2008	Percentage	16.7	16.8	13.6	12.8	16.4	12.9	14.6	13.2	11.1	14.2
	Number	54,000	142,000	92,000	68,000	105,000	79,000	131,000	122,000	63,000	857,000
Q3 2008	Percentage	19.6	17.6	17.8	15.9	18.7	13.5	16.5	14.4	12.7	16.2
	Number	65,000	151,000	119,000	86,000	119,000	82,000	149,000	131,000	71,000	973,000

People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET)

		Region									
	NEET	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*England*
Q2 2008	Percentage	17.4	16.2	15.1	13.4	15.6	12.5	14.5	12.1	9.7	14.0
	Number	56,000	139,000	101,000	71,000	98,000	77,000	132,000	111,000	55,000	840,000
Q1 2008	Percentage	16.2	16.1	11.3	13.1	15.0	14.1	14.8	11.5	10.9	13.6
	Number	52,000	136,000	75,000	69,000	95,000	87,000	129,000	104,000	6[illegible],000	810,000
Q4 2007	Percentage	15.3	14.2	12.3	13.0	14.7	12.1	14.2	12.8	9.8	13.1
	Number	49,000	120,000	82,000	70,000	93,000	74,000	123,000	116,000	56,000	782,000
Q3 2007	Percentage	16.4	17.3	15.9	15.1	17.6	15.2	15.7	14.0	11.2	15.4
	Number	52,000	144,000	105,000	81,000	111,000	92,000	136,000	125,000	63,000	909,000
Q2 2007	Percentage	14.6	16.1	13.9	12.8	17.4	14.1	15.1	12.4	11.1	14.2
	Number	47,000	134,000	92,000	66,000	107,000	84,000	130,000	112,000	61,000	833,000
Q1 2007	Percentage	15.2	15.2	14.5	13.8	18.0	12.8	13.8	12.0	12.7	14.1
	Number	48,000	127,000	97,000	72,000	111,000	76,000	119,000	107,000	70,000	828,000
Q4 2006	Percentage	14.2	14.4	14.5	12.5	15.4	12.9	17.2	10.5	12.3	13.8
	Number	45,000	120,000	95,000	65,000	96,000	77,000	148,000	93,000	68,000	808,000
Q3 2006	Percentage	16.9	16.9	18.3	15.6	17.7	15.5	21.2	13.2	13.5	16.6
	Number	53,000	140,000	118,000	81,000	112,000	92,000	184,000	115,000	74,000	970,000
Q2 2006	Percentage	16.7	15.7	16.5	14.8	15.6	14.4	16.1	12.5	10.8	14.8
	Number	52,000	128,000	105,000	76,000	97,000	86,000	141,000	108,000	59,000	851,000
Q1 2006	Percentage	16.8	14.6	14.5	15.3	14.8	12.4	15.4	12.1	11.0	14.0
	Number	52,000	118,000	93,000	77,000	90,000	72,000	132,000	105,000	61,000	801,000
Q4 2005	Percentage	19.3	13.9	16.6	13.9	15.1	13.2	16.9	12.7	11.6	14.6
	Number	61,000	114,000	107,000	70,000	93,000	77,000	143,000	110,000	63,000	837,000
Q3 2005	Percentage	22.5	15.0	16.7	13.4	16.4	11.8	17.7	12.7	14.0	15.2
	Number	68,000	124,000	107,000	67,000	100,000	69,000	156,000	110,000	76,000	877,000
Q2 2005	Percentage	19.7	14.5	15.9	11.6	14.3	11.3	15.4	10.0	11.5	13.5
	Number	62,000	117,000	99,000	59,000	88,000	66,000	134,000	85,000	61,000	771,000
Q1 2005	Percentage	17.9	13.8	14.5	12.1	13.2	10.4	15.5	10.8	11.8	13.1
	Number	56,000	110,000	89,000	61,000	81,000	60,000	131,000	92,000	63,000	743,000
Q4 2004	Percentage	18.7	14.1	13.1	13.7	13.6	10.7	16.4	9.5	11.4	13.2
	Number	58,000	113,000	81,000	68,000	83,000	61,000	139,000	82,000	60,000	744,000
Q3 2004	Percentage	19.0	15.6	16.5	14.9	16.7	12.2	18.7	10.5	11.0	14.9
	Number	59,000	123,000	100,000	73,000	99,000	68,000	160,000	90,000	57,000	829,000
Q2 2004	Percentage	16.4	14.0	11.9	11.7	14.4	11.2	15.2	10.0	9.4	12.6
	Number	49,000	109,000	72,000	57,000	84,000	62,000	131,000	84,000	47,000	697,000
Q1 2004	Percentage	17.4	12.1	12.5	11.0	14.2	9.3	15.5	11.5	7.4	12.3
	Number	53,000	94,000	75,000	53,000	84,000	51,000	133,000	98,000	37,000	677,000

People aged 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET)

		Region									
	NEET	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humber*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*East of England*	*London*	*South East*	*South West*	*England*
Q4 2003	Percentage	15.2	13.4	12.8	10.7	13.5	9.0	14.3	11.7	7.4	12.1
	Number	46,000	105,000	76,000	51,000	81,000	50,000	122,000	99,000	37,000	667,000
Q3 2003	Percentage	19.6	17.6	16.1	13.6	17.4	13.3	15.5	12.3	10.0	14.9
	Number	59,000	136,000	96,000	63,000	102,000	72,000	136,000	102,000	50,000	815,000
Q2 2003	Percentage	18.6	14.4	14.8	12.8	15.0	12.3	12.7	11.5	8.7	13.1
	Number	54,000	109,000	86,000	59,000	86,000	66,000	111,000	94,000	43,000	708,000
Q1 2003	Percentage	18.7	13.1	16.2	11.8	15.5	14.4	13.8	10.7	10.8	13.6
	Number	55,000	98,000	94,000	54,000	89,000	78,000	119,000	89,000	53,000	729,000
Q4 2002	Percentage	17.2	13.4	12.7	12.2	13.5	12.8	12.5	9.1	9.8	12.2
	Number	50,000	100,000	73,000	56,000	79,000	69,000	108,000	76,000	49,000	659,000
Q3 2002	Percentage	17.5	15.9	18.5	12.9	16.9	13.5	16.0	11.1	11.8	14.8
	Number	51,000	115,000	105,000	59,000	96,000	73,000	138,000	92,000	57,000	785,000
Q2 2002	Percentage	16.2	16.6	15.3	12.2	15.5	11.5	13.7	10.8	8.9	13.3
	Number	46,000	119,000	86,000	55,000	87,000	61,000	120,000	88,000	42,000	703,000
Q1 2002	Percentage	18.2	16.0	14.9	13.1	16.1	11.4	12.7	10.1	10.3	13.3
	Number	53,000	116,000	83,000	59,000	90,000	61,000	110,000	82,000	49,000	701,000
Q4 2001	Percentage	16.1	15.0	13.7	11.3	14.4	11.0	13.2	10.5	8.9	12.6
	Number	46,000	110,000	76,000	51,000	81,000	59,000	114,000	85,000	43,000	664,000
Q3 2001	Percentage	18.1	18.0	15.7	13.7	14.3	13.6	15.7	11.7	12.0	14.6
	Number	50,000	130,000	84,000	60,000	80,000	72,000	138,000	95,000	57,000	766,000
Q2 2001	Percentage	15.2	15.9	13.8	12.5	13.6	11.5	12.4	8.4	10.4	12.4
	Number	42,000	114,000	74,000	54,000	75,000	60,000	109,000	68,000	49,000	644,000
Q1 2001	Percentage	20.2	15.7	14.8	13.1	14.8	11.6	11.9	9.5	9.7	13.0
	Number	56,000	113,000	80,000	57,000	81,000	61,000	101,000	76,000	45,000	671,000
Q4 2000	Percentage	18.3	13.5	13.9	13.0	15.0	10.3	11.3	9.3	10.3	12.3
	Number	50,000	95,000	75,000	56,000	82,000	54,000	95,000	74,000	48,000	629,000
Q3 2000	Percentage	21.9	15.8	16.9	15.4	15.9	12.2	15.2	11.2	10.5	14.5
	Number	59,000	112,000	89,000	69,000	86,000	63,000	132,000	90,000	49,000	749,000
Q2 2000	Percentage	22.6	13.2	14.3	13.7	13.6	10.2	14.9	8.5	9.2	12.8
	Number	62,000	93,000	74,000	60,000	75,000	52,000	130,000	67,000	42,000	[illegible]

Base: 16 to 24-year-olds, England

Source:

Labour Force Survey

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support and promote provincial and district level governance in Afghanistan outside the Kabul district. [309375]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development.

Belarus

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to visit Belarus to discuss *(a)* bilateral relations and *(b)* broader global issues. [308365]

Chris Bryant: I currently have no plans to visit Belarus. These issues are discussed regularly at official level. My predecessor, the then Minister for Europe, my right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) met the Belarasian Prime Minister Sergei Sidorsky when he visited the UK in November 2008.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the state of relations between Belarus and the UK; and if he will make a statement. [308366]

Chris Bryant: Our interest is to see Belarus contribute to the long term stability of the region in which it is situated. We believe this would best be achieved through further political and economic reform, and to that end we seek to encourage a stronger relationship between Belarus and the EU, which would include closer alignment to European standards and values. We recognise, at the same time, that Belarus has a close co-operative relationship with the Russian Federation. In line with other EU member states, we continue to base our political relationship on the need for the respect for basic human rights and political freedoms, and regularly raise issues of concern.

On the economic side, bilateral trade and investment are very small. We have welcomed Belarus's engagement with international organisations, including the International Monetary Fund and World Bank as the basis for much needed economic reform. At a human level, the UK has a memorandum of understanding in place with Belarus on respite visits for children suffering from the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and we offer a small number of scholarships each year through the Chevening Programme which allows Belarusian citizens the opportunity to study at UK higher educational institutions.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Belarus. [308367]

Chris Bryant: The political situation in Belarus remains very restrictive. We are concerned by the lack of recognition by the authorities that the existence of an opposition is a vital part of a properly functioning democracy. Presidential elections in 2006 were described by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) election observation mission as

> "severely flawed due to the arbitrary use of state power and restrictions on basic rights"

and no opposition politician obtained a seat in Parliament at the last parliamentary elections in September 2008.

Local elections are due in spring 2010, and presidential elections are due before February 2011. I welcome the Belarusian decision to discuss electoral reforms with the OSCE. This is a step in the right direction. We and the international community will be watching developments carefully in the run up to these elections.

Cameroon: Corruption

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of corruption in the judicial system in Cameroon; and what discussions he has had with the Cameroon government on the matter. [308128]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Cameroon is rated 146 of 180 countries on the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index 2009. While reliable information on corruption in the judicial system in Cameroon is difficult to obtain, the system is widely acknowledged as inefficient, leading to high levels of corruption. Our high commission in Yaoundé co-ordinates with other diplomatic missions and multinational organisations on anti-corruption measures, and together give political direction to a programme of technical assistance to the Government of Cameroon (the CHOC programme).

Cameroon: Nature Conservation

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the extent of wildlife trafficking in Cameroon; and what discussions he has had with the Cameroon government on the matter. [308101]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are in contact with a number of organisations and individuals involved in the fight against wildlife trafficking in Cameroon, including through the Last Great Ape Organisation (LAGA), a Cameroonian non-government organisation that has received Government funding. LAGA works closely with the Cameroonian Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife Protection to enforce laws on wildlife trafficking and achieved the first prosecutions in Cameroonian courts for wildlife trafficking offences.

The Cameroonian law enforcement authorities have had some notable successes in recent months in intercepting illegal shipments of wildlife. In November 2009, our High Commissioner met the Minister for Forestry and Wildlife Protection and underlined the importance we place on sustained government efforts to identify, interdict and prosecute wildlife trafficking.

Caribbean: Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to encourage rehabilitation programs for drug addicts serving prison sentences in the British Caribbean Overseas Territories. [309076]

Chris Bryant: In Anguilla, all prisoners identified with a substance misuse problem are offered drug services after their arrival in prison. There are also plans that early in 2010 the services of a local drug counsellor, currently employed by the education authority, will visit the prison to facilitate group work. The resident prison counsellor offers one-to-one sessions for substance abusers and this is reinforced by the rehabilitation department who offer drug awareness training. The prison's change manager, a former UK prison governor who was appointed in June 2009, has drafted a strategic plan for the prison which will include access to improved drug and general rehabilitative services.

In the British Virgin Islands a drugs counsellor visits the prison on a regular basis to run group sessions with prisoners with drug abuse issues, working in conjunction with the prison's resettlement department and its internal counsellor. Subject to funding in the next financial year, the British Virgin Islands prison adviser, a former UK prison governor who was recruited in early 2009, has a proposal to increase the number of hours of both group and individual drug work with prisoners.

The Cayman Islands has a well developed and well resourced drug programme, both within prison and in the community. The introduction of drug courts has sought to divert from prison those who do not need to be incarcerated and who can undergo rehabilitation in the community.

In Montserrat the prison has recently established a formal process for external drug workers to visit the prison on a regular basis. Although the numbers of prisoners with drug abuse issues are small, the sessions are aimed at all prisoners in order to provide awareness of the issues associated with drugs.

In the Turks and Caicos Islands a drug worker continues to visit the prison regularly, to hold both group and individual sessions. The Overseas Territories prison reform co-ordinator has held a number of meetings locally in recent months with the aim of seeking to progress both prison and community based drug rehabilitation, linked to sentencing amendments. It is hoped that this issue will progress in 2010.

Chile: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Chile. [309144]

Chris Bryant: The Government's chief objective is to deepen the already excellent bilateral relationship which was greatly bolstered during 2009 through visits by HRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, and through the first ever visit by a serving Prime Minister. We will seek an early opportunity to arrange the next round of our existing High Level Political Talks once the new Chilean Government takes office in March 2010. We aim to work with the Chilean military to capitalise on its experience in UN and peace-keeping operations in Haiti, Bosnia and Cyprus through a continuing programme of high-level staff visits. We will also continue to promote a growing bilateral trade, commercial and investment relationship with Chile, while advocating a similar pro-market stance in international trade talks. The UK's overriding aim is to be a partner of choice for Chile in key international and public policy issues of mutual concern.

China: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of the People's Republic of China. [309195]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member for Mid-Sussex to "The UK and China: A framework for engagement" that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs launched in January 2009. A copy of this is available on our UK in China website at:

http://ukinchina.fco.gov.uk/en/

In this we set out three overarching objectives:

(a) to get the best for Britain from China's rise;

(b) to foster China's emergence as a responsible global player; and

(c) to promote sustainable development, modernisation and internal reform within China.

China: Prisoners

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek to secure the release of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche from the Chinese authorities. [307045]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are aware of Tenzin's case and are concerned for his well-being. I raised this case most recently during my visit to China in September 2009 where we included Tenzin's name as part of an individual case list, which was handed over during the visit.

The Chinese responded at the end of my visit that:

> "on 23 January 2003, Sichuan Provincial High People's Court reviewed and approved Tenzin's death sentence with a two-year suspension of execution and life deprivation of political rights for the crimes of bombing and instigating secession. On 26 January 2005, Sichuan Provincial High People's Court decided to commune his punishment to life imprisonment and life deprivation of political rights. He is now jailed in the Chuandong Prison of Sichuan Province".

We will continue to raise this case at every appropriate opportunity.

Colombia: Overseas Trade

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 420W, on Colombia: overseas trade, if he will make it his policy to withdraw from the negotiation of a free trade agreement with Colombia. [309290]

Chris Bryant: No.

Colombia: Trade Unions

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 770W, on Colombia: trade unions, what reports his Department has seen on the number of trade unionists murdered in Colombia in the last 12 months; and how many murders are referred to in each such report. [308416]

Chris Bryant: In terms of formal cumulative reports, the Colombian Presidential Programme for Human Rights reports a total of 28 murdered trade unionists from January to November 2009 (down from 34 in the same period in 2008). Alternatively, the Escuela Nacional Sindicalista reports 36 trade unionists killed from 1 January to 30 November 2009 (against a total of 49 recorded for the whole of 2008).

We receive representations throughout the year from UK trade unions and non-governmental organisations about the number of murdered trade unionists in Colombia. Statistics tend to be based on a calendar year, rather than on a 12 month basis.

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307964]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Hertford and Stortford (Mr. Prisk) on 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 72W. The figures since June 2009 are:

Invoices paid within 10 days

	Number	*Percentage*
June 2009	4,009	86.0
July 2009	4,195	91.1
August 2009	3,689	93.5
September 2009	3,866	96.6
October 2009	4,120	95.2
November 2009	4,038	96.9

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307799]

Chris Bryant: For the United Kingdom, 29 offences have been created altogether by The Iran (United Nations Sanctions) Order 2009 (SI 2009/886), The North Korea (United Nations Sanctions) Order 2009 (SI 2009/1749) and The North Korea (United Nations Sanctions) (Amendment) Order 2009 (SI 2009/3213) and nil offences have been abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 1 May 2008.

For the overseas territories, 43 offences have been created altogether by The International Criminal Court Act 2001 (Overseas Territories) Order 2009 (SI 2009/1738), The Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) Order 2008 (SI 2009/3125), The North Korea (United Nations Measures) (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) Order 2009 (SI 2009/1746), The Burma (Restrictive Measures) (Overseas Territories) Order 2009 (SI 2009/3008) and The Export of Goods, Transfer of Technology and Provision of Technical Assistance (Control) (Overseas Territories) (Amendment) Order 2009 (SI 2009/3212) and 23 offences were abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 1 May 2008.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what factors determine the allocation of questions for written answer to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Rhondda; and on what issues *(a)* within and *(b)* outside his listed Ministerial responsibilities he will answer questions. [308542]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State answers questions tabled by the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) and the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr. Davey). He answers questions from all hon. Members on security matters.

Questions are allocated to me in accordance with my responsibilities, which are listed on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at

> http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/who-we-are/our-ministers/c-bryant:

European Union; Europe, including Balkans, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova; Russia, South Caucasus, Central Asia; OSCE and Council of Europe; Overseas Territories; South America; Australasia and Pacific; Consular policy; Olympics; human resources and diversity; Public Diplomacy, including British Council and BBC World Service; Shanghai Expo 2010; and Protocol. I also answer questions on the Caribbean and Central America and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Services. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers will on occasion answer questions on behalf of their colleagues, for example if a Minister is travelling.

Hezbollah

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to apply any conditions in respect of the abandonment of the use of force by Hezbollah in his Department's contacts with Hezbollah politicians. [308556]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK's policy towards contact with Hezbollah remains unchanged. Our objective is that Hezbollah reject violence and play a constructive, democratic and peaceful role in Lebanese politics, in line with UN Security Council Resolutions. We believe that occasional and carefully considered contacts with Hezbollah's politicians, including its MPs, will best advance this goal.

Any contacts will take place on a case by case basis. We are only interested in serious dialogue with Hezbollah and about issues of national importance to Lebanon and the region.

Honduras: Politics and Government

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 772-73W, on Honduras: politics and government, for what reasons the UK did not send a representative to observe the recent presidential election in Honduras. [308413]

Chris Bryant: There was no UK or EU observation mission to monitor the presidential elections in Honduras on 29 November 2009 because the Tegucigalpa/San José Accord was not fully implemented ahead of the elections.

Following the elections the EU issued a statement expressing that the lack of implementation of the accord brought about an "electoral process under abnormal circumstances". However the UK noted that they were held in a largely peaceful manner. We continue to call for full implementation of the agreement and political reconciliation ahead of the transfer of power to the President-elect on 27 January 2010, and stand ready to work with the new Government to restore democratic order in the country.

India: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of India. [309196]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government already enjoys constructive relations with India across a broad range of bilateral, regional and global issues. We aim to develop close bilateral co-operation with India on education, trade, investment and development. We will also continue to engage the Indian Government on our strategic priorities in South Asia, recognising India's pivotal role in the region. UK and India are already working closely to address various global challenges which include promoting global economic stability, reducing the impact of climate change and tackling the threat of terrorism.

Indonesia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Indonesia. [309193]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK has strong bilateral relations with Indonesia and continues to look for opportunities to further strengthen this partnership.

The UK and Indonesia co-operate across a broad range of foreign policy priorities including climate change, counter-terrorism and the prevention of radicalisation and the promotion of UK trade and investment. We also remain engaged with the Indonesian authorities on human rights and conflict prevention, reform of international institutions, global economy and co-operation in defence and education.

Iran: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Iran. [309197]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our objective is to encourage Iran away from confrontation and suspicion of the west. We and our international partners have serious concerns about Iran's nuclear ambitions, its regional role in supporting terrorism and promoting instability, and its denial of the rights to which its own people aspire.

Iran's human rights record has deteriorated rapidly in 2009, and is arguably the worst it has been in 20 years. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a statement on 28 December 2009 calling on the Iranian Government to respect the human rights of its people after several protesters were killed in clashes in Iran. We will continue to urge Iran to respect these rights, which are enshrined in international agreements to which Iran is party, and in the Iranian constitution.

On the nuclear dossier we continue to follow a two track approach which offers Iran the opportunity for cooperation with the international community but increased pressure if Iran is unwilling. Given Iran's lack of positive engagement so far, further consideration will need to be given to sanctions targeted against the Iranian regime.

Jordan: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Jordan. [309146]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our policy towards Jordan remains one of firm support for its security and stability, and for the economic and political reform envisioned in its National Agenda of 2005. We count Jordan among our firmest friends and value the contribution it makes to resolving and averting regional conflicts. This is covered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Offices (FCO) sixth Departmental Strategic Objective (DSO), preventing and resolving conflict. We encourage British business investment in Jordan (FCO's DSO number 2, supporting the British economy), and through both the embassy and British Council we invest also in developing Jordan's human capacity.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many employees of his Department and its agencies have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308514]

Chris Bryant: The number of employees convicted of a criminal offence since 1997 is five. However, as their were less than five convictions in each of the years in question, details are not provided to avoid revealing the identity of individuals and on grounds of confidentiality

Official Hospitality

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on greeting foreign dignitaries arriving at Heathrow airport in each of the last three years. [308364]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The requested information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1036W, on Olympic Games 2012, how many heads of state and government he expects to visit the UK during the London 2012 Olympics; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of hosting such visitors. [309279]

Chris Bryant: Based on the experience of Beijing and previous Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, we are expecting more than 100 Heads of State and Government to visit the UK for the Games. Their principal costs will be met by the body that invites and hosts them, usually their respective National Olympic Committee or National Paralympic Committee.

Oman: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Oman. [309148]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Oman is an important partner for the UK. We share exceptionally close political and defence links. We are committed to maintaining and enhancing our strong relationship.

To that end, we are working with the Government of Oman to encourage it to take a full and active role in regional stability and security issues. We will promote the benefits of a low carbon, high growth economy. We will continue to provide effective support to UK civil, defence and security interests; and to provide high quality consular assistance to British citizens living in, and travelling to, Oman.

Through the work of the British Council in Oman, we are expanding our support in the fields of education and training, and deepening cultural links.

Peru: EU External Trade

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what provisions of the proposed free trade agreement between Peru and the EU govern the protection of the Amazonian rainforest; and if he will make a statement. [307823]

Chris Bryant: We believe that the EU-Andean multiparty trade agreement under negotiation with Peru will encourage EU investment in the economy and the further spread of EU standards in corporate and social responsibility. The Government regard trade agreements as important for economic growth and prosperity in developing countries, helping to reduce the poverty that is often the driver of conflict, displacement and human rights abuse.

The UK remains committed to environmental conservation and protecting the rights of indigenous communities. We have frequent discussions with Peru on these issues. During my visit to Peru in October 2009, I, as Minister for Latin America, met members of the multi-sector committee working to strengthen consultation mechanisms with indigenous groups on the development of the Peruvian Amazon, as well as with a cross-section of domestic and international organisations working on environmental issues in Peru. I offered the Government's support to the Peruvian Government as they seek to strengthen Peru's legal framework for protecting the Amazon. We are engaging with Peru's Environment Minister on his commitment to reduce Peru's deforestation to zero by 2019.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* his EU counterparts and *(b)* the European Commission on the effects on the indigenous Amazonians of the proposed free trade agreement between the EU and Peru. [307824]

Chris Bryant: Officials from the UK Representation to the EU in Brussels have been in continuous liaison with the European Commission throughout the negotiations—including on the UK's commitment to environmental conservation and protecting the rights of indigenous communities across the Latin American region—via representation to the Article 133 Committee (now the Trade Policy Committee, since entry into force of the Lisbon treaty) and associated meetings in Brussels.

Qatar: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Qatar. [309150]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK continues to look for opportunities to further build our relationship with the State of Qatar to the benefit of both countries.

We work closely with the State of Qatar on political matters, including the Qatari led mediation on Sudan/Darfur, and to promote and enhance regional security. Qatar is a leading partner for the UK's energy requirements and we share an excellent relationship in this field based on mutual co-operation, highlighted in May 2009 with the opening of the South Hook liquid natural gas terminal by Her Majesty the Queen and His Highness The Emir of Qatar.

More widely, our work with the State of Qatar includes the promotion and enhancement of the excellent trade and economic links between our countries; the enhancement educational, cultural and sporting co-operation and to support the growing number of British citizens living in Qatar.

Russia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of the Russian Federation. [309194]

Chris Bryant: We aim to have a strong and uncompromising relationship with the Russian Federation, based on mutual respect, a shared commitment to enhanced prosperity, greater equality and respect for the rule of law and human rights as it is clearly in the UK's and Europe's interest to engage with, rather than isolate, Russia.

Russia is an important partner, including at the UN, in the G8 and the G20. We need to work together on tackling climate change, enhancing trade relationships and energy security, and on shared foreign policy objectives, including Afghanistan, promoting peace in the Middle East, combating the proliferation of nuclear weapons and developing security in our shared neighbourhood. The Government welcome President Medvedev's focus on the need to strengthen the rule of law in Russia. Implementation of this agenda would significantly enhance Russia's ability to meet the standards it set itself when it joined organisations such as the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The Government would like to see a strong and dependable Russia with which we and our partners can do business on a range of global challenges. That means a Russia which plays a responsible international role, and which keeps to the international commitments it has made, including in relation to energy supplies to Ukraine and EU member states, in relation to human rights in Chechnya and across Russia and in relation to Georgia.

Saudi Arabia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Saudi Arabia. [309149]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Saudi Arabia is a key ally in a strategically important region. It is an important partner in trade and investment, education, counter terrorism, defence and energy security. We are committed to maintaining and developing the relationship.

Saudi Arabia is the UK's largest trading partner in the Middle East. It is the UK's 23rd largest export market overall, with visible exports worth over £2.3 billion in 2008, and significant two-way investment flows. Over 16,000 British citizens live and work there and a further 120,000 travel annually to perform the Hajj or Umrah pilgrimages. Around 20,000 Saudis come to the UK as students each year, and many others visit for business and tourism: we issued over 90,000 visas this year. We will continue to develop and strengthen these long established commercial, educational and cultural ties.

We will continue to co-operate closely with Saudi Arabia to counter the spread and threat of terrorism. Saudi Arabia has significant influence in the Muslim world, not least as the location of Islam's two holiest places and a centre of Islamic culture. Co-operation under the Prevent agenda is an important aspect of countering radicalisation in the UK and other countries key to the counter terrorism effort.

We will continue to work with Saudi Arabia to encourage it to take a full and active role in international institutions and on global issues such as climate change, the Middle East peace process and regional stability. We will also continue to work with the Saudi Government towards greater respect of human rights within Saudi Arabia.

Shipping: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish legal advice *(a)* obtained and *(b)* considered by his Department in the last two years on the application of the minimum wage to seafarers sailing between UK ports. [307815]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government's legal advice on this issue is clear, and was reflected on a number of occasions in several different communications between Ministers and representatives of the trade union movement—i.e. that under international law, a coastal state may not legislate in respect of foreign-flagged vessels which enjoy the right of innocent passage in the territorial sea, as provided in the UN convention on the law of the sea. This is a right enjoyed globally by UK-flagged vessels. We are equally clear that this right also applies to foreign-flagged vessels travelling between two UK ports, and that to apply the national minimum wage in such circumstances would not be consistent with customary international law of the sea.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the United Nations on the situation in Somalia. [308555]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met the President of Somalia, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, in the margins of the UN General Assembly in September 2009 to discuss the situation in Somalia, including progress towards a political settlement and the security situation. The UK has an intense working relationship with the UN on Somalia, in New York, Nairobi and elsewhere. There are ongoing discussions in the UN on Somalia in a range of forums, in particular the Security Council, covering issues such as sanctions on obstacles to peace and security, piracy and UN support to the African Union mission in Somalia.

St. Helena

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the net migration rate for St. Helena was in the latest period for which figures are available. [309107]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for immigration in St. Helena rests with the Government of St. Helena who hold the required information.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on trends in the numbers of *(a)* shootings and *(b)* kidnappings of peacekeepers and humanitarian workers in Darfur and the surrounding region; and what steps he plans to take in consequence. [309133]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We strongly condemn the attacks of 4 and 5 December 2009 which killed five Rwandan peacekeepers and brought to 22 the number of African Union-UN mission in Darfur (UNAMID) personnel killed since 1 January 2008. There has also been a worrying increase in the number of kidnappings in Darfur and the surrounding region. Two civilian UNAMID peacekeeping staff were released on 13 December 2009 after more than three months of being held hostage. Four humanitarian workers kidnapped in Darfur and the border regions of Chad and the Central African Republic remain in captivity: one has now been held for over two months.

We closely monitor levels of insecurity and lawlessness in Darfur. These remain high. The UK continues to work closely with both UNAMID and Chief Mediator Bassolé as well as with international partners and the Government of Sudan towards creating a stable and secure Darfur. We have committed in excess of £100 million to improving UNAMID's deployment and operational capacity, and we strongly press all parties to give it the space to fulfil its full mandate. We call for the immediate release of the four international aid workers who remain in captivity.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the security situation in south Sudan following violent incidents in December 2009; and if he will make a statement. [308001]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 431W.

We are very concerned by the continuing insecurity in south Sudan as a result of tribal violence and activity by the Lord's Resistance Army. This has serious implications for stability in the region and for the safety of the people of south Sudan. It also undermines implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan.

Tzipi Livni

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for UK-Israel relations of the decision by Westminster magistrates to issue an arrest warrant for Mrs Tzipi Livni. [308409]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Israel continues to be a strategic partner and a close friend of the UK. We shall continue to foster a close relationship with Israel and are determined to protect and develop these ties. Israeli leaders—like leaders from other countries—must be able to visit the UK.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he had with the government of Israel concerning former Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni's proposed address to the Jewish National Fund Conference on 13 December 2009. [309028]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke with the Israeli Foreign Minister, Avigdor Lieberman, and Tzipi Livni herself on 15 December 2009. He also met the Israeli ambassador Ron Prosor. During these discussions he set out his view that Israeli leaders—like leaders from other countries—must be able to visit and have a proper dialogue with the Government.

The Government are looking urgently at ways in which the UK system might be changed in order to avoid this sort of situation arising again.

USA: Extradition

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the UK Mission to the US has made of facilities in US federal prisons to provide care for a person extradited from the UK who has acute Asperger's syndrome and related clinical depression *(a)* during custody before trial, *(b)* after trial and before sentencing and *(c)* after sentencing; and if he will make a statement. [308318]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Before an individual is extradited to the United States, the US authorities may assess their medical and mental health (based on medical records) to help them identify the most suitable detention facility. An individual will also be assessed on arrival at the detention facility. During the period between extradition and sentencing, the detainee will remain under the care of the US Department of Justice. After sentencing, the individual will come under the authority of the US Bureau of Prisons who again will evaluate any individual medical needs in order to identify the most suitable detention facility.

Where appropriate we will consider seeking assurances from the US authorities that any individual's medical needs will be taken into consideration.

Vietnam: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Vietnam. [309151]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Based on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Departmental Strategic Objectives for 2009-10 our embassy in Hanoi and Consulate-General in Ho Chi Minh City have a Country Business Plan that focuses on the following foreign policy objectives:

Market access for UK companies and a trade policy that ensures Vietnamese compliance with World Trade Organisation obligations.

Support for managed migration from Vietnam while reducing intake, and to increase the number of Vietnamese immigration offenders removed from the UK.

To support Vietnam in achieving sustainable economic growth, including a transition to a low carbon economy.

To assist Vietnam to play an active role on international issues and in international institutions.

A sustained improvement in Vietnam's civil and political human rights record, in line with its international commitments and its objective of long-term sustainable development.

To deliver high quality Consular support for British nationals in Vietnam.

To provide knowledge, access and influence to help our Partners Across Government deliver their objectives in Vietnam.

These objectives are set out in more detail on the UK in Vietnam website:

http://ukinvietnam.fco.gov.uk/en/working-with-vietnam/bilateral-relations/objectives-09

Western Sahara: Fisheries

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the owners of UK fishing vessels who are issued with permits to fish in the waters of Western Sahara are provided with guidance on the status of that area. [305400]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

Owners of vessels that fish in the waters of Western Sahara under the EU/Morocco Fisheries Agreement are not issued with guidance about the status of the area.

TREASURY

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Peter Luff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the cost of replacing all programme making and special events equipment that will be rendered redundant as a result of the clearance and sale of the digital dividend spectrum; and if he will make a statement. [308340]

Mr. Timms: Ofcom have estimated the costs for the residual value of programme making and special events (PMSE) equipment that will be affected by the changes in channel 69, taking into account the relevant life of the equipment and has made these available to the Department. Figures have also been provided by representatives of PMSE users, based on a new for old approach and the costs of clearing all the channels affected. The Government are currently reflecting on proposals by PMSE users for full "new for old" compensation, in the light of the notice, in some cases extensive, provided by Ofcom of these changes.

Enhanced Capital Allowance Energy Scheme

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he plans to amend the categories of equipment eligible for support under the Enhanced Capital Allowance Energy Scheme; and if he will make a statement; [308410]

(2) what change to the level of funding allocated by his Department to the Enhanced Capital Allowance Energy Scheme he anticipates in 2010-11. [308411]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There is no predetermined level of spending for the enhanced capital allowances scheme for energy efficient products or any other capital allowances scheme. The Government determine whether the scheme should be altered or expanded on the basis of annual recommendations made by the Department for Energy and Climate Change on the merits of the particular technology, and as assessment of the value for money of the proposal, considered in terms of the scheme's overall policy objectives.

Budget 2009 contained detail on updates to the level of support for the recent changes to the qualifying criteria for the scheme. New products are added monthly as manufacturers seek approval for their products to be included in the scheme.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will amend the information provided to purchasers of capital equipment about the Enhanced Capital Allowance Energy Scheme in order to encourage take-up of the Scheme. [308412]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information about enhanced capital allowances is presently provided by the Carbon Trust at:

www.eca.gov.uk

by HMRC at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/camanual/CA23140.htm

and more recently by Business Link at:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail/r.s=sc&r.l1=1079068363.lc=en&r.l3=1074403838&r.l2=1082899752&type=RESOURCES&itemId=1074404607

Business Link is a key source of information on the benefits the Government provides to encourage the purchase of energy efficient equipment.

The Carbon Trust frequently consults with industry to further encourage take-up of the scheme.

Gift Aid

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what charities received gift aid payments; and how much was paid by the Exchequer in Gift Aid to each such charity in the most recent year for which figures are available. [309207]

Mr. Timms: For reasons of taxpayer confidentiality, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) cannot provide details of Gift Aid repayments to individual charities.

The amount of tax repaid to charities in the UK on donations under Gift Aid are published in table 10.1 on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/menu.htm

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer question *(a)* (i) 307171, (ii) 307172 and (iii) 307173 on the Pre-Budget Report and *(b)* 307174, on interest rates, tabled by the right hon. Member for Birkenhead on 9 December. [308072]

Ian Pearson: I have now replied to the right hon. Member's questions and apologise for the delay in doing so.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Contracts

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many small and medium-sized firms are contracted to her Department; and how long on average her Department has taken to settle their invoices in the six months to 30 November 2009. [308097]

Jim Knight: As part of our Commercial Strategy, DWP tracks the number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) the Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies does business with in each financial year and the amount it spends with each supplier. In 2008-09 the number of SMEs that had contracts with the Department was 9,212 and the total expenditure with them was £429.7 million or 11.2 per cent. of total DWP procurement expenditure in the year. The latest available figures for 2009-10 are 4,902 SME firms and spend with them of £321 million or 12 per cent. of total procurement expenditure in the period April to end November 2009.

DWP signed the Prompt Payment Code in March 2009 and is meeting its target to pay 90 per cent. of all correct invoices within 10 days, figures for November 2009 were 97 per cent.. DWP does not isolate invoice settlement times for SME invoices and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Local Housing Allowance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants were in receipt of local housing allowance in excess of *(a)* £385 per week and *(b)* £965 per week in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available. [308321]

Helen Goodman: On average in 2009, 50 people were in receipt of weekly local housing allowance in excess of £965 and 3,290 people were in receipt of weekly local housing allowance in excess of £385.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Figures were derived by taking the monthly average in 2009 from January to September.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE): January 2009 to September 2009

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will ensure a substantive reply is sent to the letter of 28 October 2009 from the hon. Member for Walsall North to the Head of Carer's Allowance concerning a constituent. [307817]

Jonathan Shaw: A substantive response was issued on 15 December 2009.

Motability: East Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many vehicles were *(a)* purchased and *(b)* leased by people resident in (i) Lewes constituency and (ii) East Sussex under the Motability Scheme in each of the last five years. [309252]

Jonathan Shaw: Motability is an independent charitable company and is responsible for the administration of the Motability scheme. They have agreed to write separately to the hon. Member with such information as they have available.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the number of *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* children in Nottingham North constituency who have been lifted out of poverty since 1997. [308244]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of poverty for both pensioners and children are published in the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) series. These figures only allow a breakdown of the overall numbers in poverty at Government office region level. Therefore, information is not available for the Nottingham North constituency.

Estimates of the number of pensioners and children who have been lifted out of poverty are not available, as each year different households are surveyed to produce low income statistics in the Households Below Average Income series. However, information is available about the net change in the number of pensioners and children with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income over the period requested for the East Midlands Government office region.

The Government use a basket of three key thresholds of income, after housing costs, to measure pensioner poverty. The most commonly used poverty figures relate to those with incomes below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income after housing costs.

The latest information for the East Midlands Government office region is based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest 100,000. It shows that the number of pensioners in poverty in the East Midlands fell by 100,000 between 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

The public service agreement to halve child poverty by 2010-11 on the way to eradicating it by 2020 uses a headline indicator of the proportion of children in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary household median income before housing costs.

The latest information for the East Midlands Government office region is based on three-year averages and changes are rounded to the nearest 100,000. It shows that the number of children in poverty remained at the same level between 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 2005-06 to 2007-08.

A local child poverty indicator—including constituency level information—has been developed to try and replicate this national measure as closely as possible. It captures the number and proportion of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits, or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent. of median income. Details can be found via the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data, sourced from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). The reference period for FRS figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined for regional statistics as single year estimates are subject to volatility.

2. Small changes in estimates from year to year, particularly at the bottom of the income distribution, may not be significant in view of data uncertainties.

3. Changes between periods are calculated based on unrounded figures and then rounded to the nearest 100,000. Therefore they may differ from the difference between the rounded figures available in the Households Below Average Income publication.

Pensions: Expenditure

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much expenditure from the public purse on pensions was as a percentage of gross domestic product in the latest period for which figures are available; and what estimate has been made of the equivalent figure in *(a)* 2030, *(b)* 2040 and *(c)* 2050. [304385]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

The 2009 Long-term public finance report sets out long-term projections for state pension and public sector pension expenditure as a proportion of GDP. This can be found on the HMT website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/prebud_pbr09_longtermfinances.htm

Social Security Benefits: Lewes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former claimants of jobseeker's allowance in Lewes constituency have moved on to receive *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* a training allowance, *(c)* the self-employment credit and *(d)* funding from the Future Jobs Fund in each month of the last two years. [308461]

Jim Knight: Data on people who flow off jobseeker's allowance onto pension credit are not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of people who have flowed off jobseeker's allowance onto the self-employment credit or into a Future Jobs Fund job in Lewes constituency is not available.

The available information is in the following table.

Number of jobseeker's allowance claimants in Lewes constituency who have flowed off jobseeker's allowance onto Government supported training schemes in each month of the last two years

	Number of claimants
December 2007	20
January 2008	5
February 2008	10
March 2008	15
April 2008	10
May 2008	5
June 2008	5
July 2008	5
August 2008	10
September 2008	10
October 2008	[1]—
November 2008	5
December 2008	10
January 2009	5
February 2009	5
March 2009	5
April 2009	10
May 2009	10
June 2009	15
J[illegible] 2009	10
August 2009	[1]—
September 2009	[1]—
October 2009	[1]—
November 2009	[1]—

[1] Nil or negligible.

Notes:

1. Data are rounded to the nearest five.
2. This information is published on the Nomis website at www.nomisweb.co.uk
3. The percentage of people leaving with an unknown destination recorded has increased over the last 10 years. This is because the completion levels of the JSA40 (forms filled in by people leaving jobseeker's allowance) have decreased over this period. This should be taken into account when interpreting these statistics, as many of these 'unknown' leavers will have moved into employment or other benefits.

Source:

Count of unemployment-related benefits. Jobcentre Plus computer systems (computer held cases only).

Social Security Benefits: Payments

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of benefit payments to people resident in Chesterfield constituency were paid into a Post Office card account in each of the last five years. [309015]

Helen Goodman: The figures are not available in the format requested.

The following table shows the number and percentage of benefit accounts paid into a Post Office card account (POca) in the Chesterfield constituency in each of the last five years. Benefit accounts will have multiple transactions and may include payment of more than one benefit.

	All POca	*Percentage paid by POca*
2005	10,400	27
2006	10,180	26
2007	9,670	25
2008	9,180	23
2009	8,920	22

Source:

DWP, Information Directorate, 100 per cent. data

Voluntary Work

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been referred for volunteering under the Volunteering Plus Scheme; and how many people have started on a volunteering scheme. [308223]

Jim Knight: The number of referrals to the volunteering element of the six month offer is not available.

On 14 October 2009, we released official statistics on the number of jobseeker's allowance customers taking up the volunteering element of the six month offer. This shows that between April 2009 and July 2009, 1,180 people started on the volunteering scheme. Provisional data for August show that a further 930 people started on the scheme.

The next quarterly statistical release for the six month offer will be published in January 2010.

CABINET OFFICE

10 Downing Street: Shops

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* oven gloves, *(b)* aprons, *(c)* teddy bears and *(d)* wallets have been sold in the Downing Street gift shop in the last 12 months. [302287]

Angela E. Smith: A small selection of unsubsidised gifts are available for staff to purchase on a not-for-profit basis.

Death: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* diagnosis and *(b)* mortality rate for (i) chronic lung disease, (ii) coronary heart disease and (iii) cancer was in Stroud constituency in each of the last 10 years. [309130]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked for to reply to your recent question asking what the (a) diagnosis and (b) mortality rate for (i) chronic lung disease, (ii) coronary heart disease and (iii) cancer was in Stroud constituency in each of the last 10 years. (309130)

Figures on newly diagnosed cases (incidence) of chronic lung disease and coronary heart disease are not readily available. Mortality and incidence rates for parliamentary constituencies which do not share boundaries exactly with a local authority can be calculated only from 2001 onwards. The tables below provide

(a) the age standardised cancer incidence rate and (b) age standardised mortality rates for (i) chronic lung disease, (ii) coronary heart disease and (iii) cancer in Stroud parliamentary constituency for the years 2001 to 2007 (the latest available).

Parliamentary constituency population estimates on which these rates are based are experimental statistics, that is, statistics which are in a testing or consultation phase, and therefore should be treated with caution.

Table 1: Age-standardised cancer incidence rates[1,2], Stroud parliamentary constituency[3], 2001 to 2007[4,5]

	Cases per 100,000
2001	398
2002	317
2003	323
2004	375
2005	343
2006	382
2007	418

[1] Age-standardised cancer registration rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.
[2] Cancer incidence defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 excluding code C44: non-melanoma skin cancer.
[3] Based on boundaries and postcode allocation, as of 2009.
[4] Newly diagnosed cases registered in each calendar year.
[5] Parliamentary constituency population estimates used to calculate the incidence rates are experimental statistics.

Table 2: Age standardised mortality rates for chronic lung disease, coronary heart disease and cancer[1,2], Stroud parliamentary constituency[3], 2001 to 2007[4]

			Deaths per 100,000
	Chronic lung disease	*Chronic heart disease*	*Cancer*
2001	23	122	178
2002	28	127	162
2003	29	103	175
2004	21	100	156
2005	23	82	161
2006	26	89	158
2007	22	80	156

[1] Age-standardised mortality rates per 100,000 population, standardised to the European Standard Population. Age-standardised rates are used to allow comparison between populations which may contain different proportions of people of different ages.
[2] Cause of death was defined using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes J40-J47for chronic lung disease, 120-125 for coronary heart disease and C00-C97 for cancer.
[3] Based on boundaries and postcode allocation, as of 2009.
[4] Parliamentary constituency population estimates used to calculate the incidence rates are experimental statistics.

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of the invoices submitted to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2005; and if she will make a statement. [308014]

Angela E. Smith: Data recording invoices paid within 10 days of receipt have been kept only since November 2008. This followed the Prime Minister's announcement, in October 2008, that in future Government Departments would aim to pay invoices within 10 days. The following data relate to the Cabinet Office as a whole (the Prime Minister's Office forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office):

	Percentage of invoices paid within 10 days	*Number of invoices paid within 10 days*
November 2008	51	1,303
December 2008	54	803
January 2009	56	1,045
February 2009	57	1,045
March 2009	70	1,867
April 2009	94	652
May 2009	95	806
June 2009	97	1,735
July 2009	89	780
August 2009	96	1,274
September 2009	92	1,326
October 2009	96	1,575
November 2009	90	1,427

Prior to November this information was not recorded and it is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Energy

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the energy efficiency rating is for each of her Department's buildings in London. [306310]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 594W.

Divorce: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the number of divorces granted in courts in Stroud district in the last 12 months. [309136]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question requesting what estimate has made of the number of divorces granted in courts in Stroud district in the last 12 months. (309136)

Divorce statistics are based upon information supplied to ONS by the courts in England and Wales. The fact that a divorce has taken place in a court in a particular region does not mean that either one or both parties are resident there. Therefore, divorce statistics have been historically presented at a national level only.

Government Departments: ICT

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if she will initiate a review of the potential effect of the practices of Government departments in respect of the use of data sticks on the risk of importing viruses and spyware into Government IT systems. [309411]

Angela E. Smith: The Data Handling Review (DHR) requires that Departments conduct independent penetration testing of their systems to protect against hacking and other forms of malicious attack including malware and viruses. In addition, the Security Policy Framework (SPF; published by the Cabinet Office in December 2008) sets out the mandatory protective security requirements that all Departments are required to adhere to, covering all aspects of physical, personnel and information/data security. The policy guidance is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/spf.

SPF Mandatory Requirement (MR) 39 requires that Departments have effective information security policies and procedures in place which must include policies preventing unauthorised access to ICT systems and the effective prevention of virus and spyware attacks. Detailed (often protectively marked) technical guidance is available to help Departments implement these requirements, including material developed by CESG, the National Technical Authority for Information Assurance (part of GCHQ).

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agency in each year since 2007; and how much (i) her Department and (ii) its agency spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309065]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate she has made of the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* likely duration of the Iraq Inquiry. [308554]

Tessa Jowell: We anticipate that the cost of the Iraq inquiry will be comparable with previous similar Privy Counsellor inquiries. It is too soon to know the full costs, but the Government are committed to publishing the costs in due course. The Prime Minister said in his statement to the House on 15 June 2009 establishing the inquiry that he expected that the inquiry will take at least a year.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what costs other than staffing costs incurred on the preparation of Government briefing papers had been incurred in respect of the Iraq Inquiry on the latest date for which figures are available. [305460]

Tessa Jowell: A number of Government Departments are providing papers to the Iraq Inquiry. The costs of doing this will be met from within existing budgets.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office according to what scale allowances are paid to *(a)* members of and *(b)* witnesses called to give oral evidence to the Iraq Inquiry. [305461]

Tessa Jowell: The members of the Iraq Inquiry are paid at the following rates: Chairman—£790.00 per day; Committee members—£565.00 per day. Witnesses who are current or former Ministers, civil servants or military officers may claim reasonable travel costs and out of pocket expenses for attending evidence sessions in line with standard departmental entitlements and rates.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials of each grade are employed to provide support for the Iraq Inquiry during its oral evidence sessions. [305462]

Tessa Jowell: The breakdown by grade of the 19 staff in the Iraq Inquiry secretariat is as follows:

	Number
Senior civil service	4
Band A (grade 6 and 7)	8
Band B2 (HEO/SEO)	3
Band B1 (EO)	2
Band C (AO)	2

It is for the inquiry, which is independent, to decide how it deploys its staff across its areas of work. In addition to the staff in the secretariat, the inquiry has engaged five temporary administrative and security staff from recruitment agencies to assist with the running of the oral hearings.

Life Expectancy: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the average life expectancy for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each constituency in Gloucestershire (i) is and (ii) was in (A) 1999, (B) 1989 and (C) 1979. [309131]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average life expectancy for (a) men and (b) women in each constituency in Gloucestershire (i) is and (ii) was in (A) 1999, (B) 1989 and (C) 1979. (309131)

Period life expectancies at birth for (a) males and (b) females for all local authority districts and unitary authorities in England and Wales, for rolling three-year periods from 1991-93 to 2006-08, are published on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=8841

Life expectancy figures at parliamentary constituency level are not readily available.

Marriage and Civil Partnerships: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* marriages and *(b)* civil partnerships there were in Stroud district in the last 12 months. [309134]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question requesting how many (a) marriages and (b) civil partnerships there were in Stroud district in the last 12 months. (309134)

National and sub-national figures on the number of (a) marriages and (b) civil partnership are not yet available for the last twelve months. Figures are available for previous years, but sub-national figures are not published at district level.

Figures are available for Gloucestershire, and using the most recent period for which figures are available, (a) the number of marriages in 2006 was 3,474 and (b) the number of civil partnerships in 2008 was 72.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 975W, on Ministerial policy advisers: contracts, which Ministers have such policy advisers in their private offices. [309494]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is not held centrally.

Population: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what projections she has made of the population of each district in Gloucestershire in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2015, *(c)* 2020 and *(d)* 2025. [309135]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the projected population is for each district in Gloucestershire in (a) 2010, (b) 2015, (c) 2020 and (d) 2025 [309135].

The subnational population projections are demographic trend-based projections that indicate what the population levels of an area are likely to be if recently observed trends in fertility, mortality and migration were to continue. They take no account of future policies or developments which may affect trends.

The projections you requested are provided in Table 1 below. They are 2006-based Subnational Population Projections which were published by the Office for National Statistics on 12 June 2008.

Table 1: Population projections for the districts in Gloucestershire

Thousand

LA	*2010*	*2015*	*2020*	*2025*
Cheltenham	114	117	120	123
Cotswold	86	89	93	96
Forest of Dean	83	86	88	91
Gloucester	117	122	126	131
Stroud	113	117	121	126
Tewkesbury	81	84	88	91

JUSTICE

Animal Welfare: Convictions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for animal cruelty there have been in courts in East Sussex in each year since 1996. [309199]

Claire Ward: Information showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences involving animal cruelty, in the Sussex police force area from 1996 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the table.

Court proceedings data are not available separately for East Sussex.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of offenders found guilty at all courts for animal cruelty offences[1], Sussex police force area, 1996 to 2007[2,3]

	Number
1996	32
1997	65
1998	74
1999	48
2000	46
2001	45
2002	47
2003	55
2004	32
2005	41
2006	27
2007	17

[1] The offences of animal cruelty are covered by the following acts; The Protection of Animals Act 1911, Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Performing Animals (Regulations) Act 1926, Protection of Animals Act 1934, Docking and Nicking of Horses Act 1949, Pet Animals Act 1951, Cockfighting Act 1952, Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954, Animal Health Act 1981, Slaughterhouses Act 1974, Abandonment of Animals Act 1960, Animal and Animal Products (Import and Export) Regulations 1998, Animals (Cruel Poisons) Act 1962, Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963, Riding Establishments Acts 1964 and 1970, Slaughter of Poultry Act 1967, Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968, Badgers Act 1973, Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996, Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 2000, the Fur Farming (Prohibition) Act 2000 and the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Corruption: Convictions

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many UK-registered companies have been prosecuted in the UK for bribery and corruption in the last five years. [307348]

Claire Ward: Information held centrally on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database for England and Wales does not identify where a company, proceeded against at magistrates courts, is registered.

Information for Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Office respectively.

Departmental Official Cars

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of providing official cars for the use of *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the last 12 months. [301173]

Mr. Straw: The provision of official cars for Ministers and the permanent secretary is the responsibility of the Government Car and Dispatch Agency (GCDA) managed by the Department for Transport. In July this year the Department for Transport published a written ministerial statement that lists the costs of providing each Government Department with ministerial cars and drivers for 2008-09. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Gillingham (Paul Clark), on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 80WS. That statement showed that the cost to the MoJ for ministerial cars in 2008-09 was £310,600.

Since 1 April 2009 the Ministry of Justice publishes on a quarterly basis the business costs for each Director General on the MoJ internet site. This includes the cost of the official car for the Permanent Secretary (which is also used by other senior officials). That information can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/moj-business-costs-0809.htm

Driving Offences: Sentencing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for *(a)* offences of drink driving and *(b)* each other motoring offence resulted in a custodial sentence in (i) Lewes constituency, (ii) Sussex and (iii) England in each of the last 10 years. [308564]

Claire Ward: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 790W.

Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals on *(a)* voting age, *(b)* a referendum on using the alternative vote for elections to the House of Commons and *(c)* voting rights for prisoners. [308326]

Mr. Wills: I can confirm that *(a)* the Government are considering the recommendations made by the Youth Citizenship Commission in relation to lowering the voting age but has no current plans to legislate, *(b)* the Prime Minister has set out our commitment to a referendum being held early in the next Parliament for the people to decide whether they want to move to the Alternative Vote system for elections to the House of Commons, for which legislation will be required and *(c)* the Government are carefully analysing the responses to the second stage consultation on the voting rights of prisoners detained in the UK and will consider the next steps once this has concluded.

Elections: Local Government

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many elections there were in each ward of Vale of Clwyd constituency in each year since 1996. [308415]

Mr. Wills: The following national elections have taken place in each ward of the Vale of Clwyd constituency since 1996:

(i) UK Parliamentary General Elections—1997, 2001 and 2005;

(ii) European Parliamentary Elections—1999, 2004 and 2009;

(iii) Welsh Assembly Elections—1999, 2003 and 2007.

In addition, full local government elections (County and Town/Community Councils) took place across each of the wards of the Vale of Clwyd constituency in 1999, 2004 and 2008.

Information regarding by-elections at county council level is not held centrally. While Denbighshire county council are unable to provide records of by-elections per ward pre 2000, we understand that the following Town/Community by-elections took place in the following wards since 2001:

	[illegible]
2001	Prestatyn North
2002	Prestatyn East, Rhyl South, and St. Asaph West
2003	Dyserth[1]
2004	No by-elections
2005	Prestatyn East, Rhyl South East and Tremeirchion[1]
2006	Prestatyn South West
2007	Denbigh Upper/Henllan (Henllan), Rhyl East, Rhyl South, St. Asaph East
2008	Rhyl West
2009	Prestatyn Central, Rhyl West

[1] Denotes an uncontested election (only one valid nomination received).

Denbighshire county council have also confirmed that county council by-elections took place in Rhyl South West in 2002 and Rhyl South East in 2003.

Housing: Sales

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many residential property transactions with a purchase price between £125,000 and £175,000 have been recorded by the Land Registry as having been completed since the implementation of the increase in the stamp duty threshold. [308702]

Mr. Wills: The number of residential property transactions with a purchase price between £125,000 and £175,000 recorded by the Land Registry in England and Wales between the implementation of the increase in the stamp duty threshold on 3 September 2008 and 30 November 2009 (which are the latest data for which figures are available) is 180,808.

Life Peers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on proposals to allow life peers to renounce their peerage and stand for election to the House of Commons. [308846]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has received a number of letters on the provisions in the Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill on resigning from the House of Lords and on disclaiming the peerage.

Public Procurement

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on how other EU member states are implementing article 45 of the 2004/EC/18 European Directive on Public Procurement, relating to mandatory exclusion. [307444]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

HM Treasury does not hold information for benchmarking purposes on how other EU member states are implementing Article 45 of the 2004/18/EC European Directive on Public Procurement. However, the European Commission does collect data on the ways that EU member states are implementing Article 45.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to support and promote provincial and district level governance in Afghanistan outside the Kabul district. [309376]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides financial assistance to four programmes which support improved provincial and district level governance in Afghanistan. In Helmand, DFID is providing up to £9.8 million over four years alongside £14.5 million from the UK Stabilisation Aid Fund to improve local governance, including the setting up and working of community councils and an improved traditional justice service. DFID is also providing £2.4 million over two years for community management and development initiatives in the Lashkar Gah municipality of Helmand.

The two further programmes were approved in December 2009 and will provide support across the entire country. DFID will provide up to £23 million over five years for the Afghanistan Subnational Governance Programme to improve local government service delivery by training provincial and district governors, staffing up and restructuring their offices and building basic management systems nationwide. Furthermore, over four years DFID will provide up to £9.5 million for the Governors' Performance Improvement Programme which will provide a performance-based operational budget to all 34 provincial governors.

International Development: Mandatory Exclusions

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals are prohibited from working with his Department following allegations of involvement in fraudulent or corrupt activity; and if he will make a statement. [308853]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The policy of the Department for International Development (DFID) is to exclude organisations or individuals from contract award where they have been convicted of fraudulent or corrupt activity, as required by the "Mandatory Exclusion" clause of the Public Sector and Utilities Procurement and EU directives.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many TALON bomb disposal robots the Army has in Afghanistan. [308628]

Mr. Quentin Davies: TALON is not yet deployed, but when it is deployed in the next few weeks it will be used in a route clearing role in support of Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) operations. For reasons of operational security, I am unable to reveal how many of these pieces of equipment will be available. However, I can give an assurance that sufficient numbers will be available for operational purposes in theatre, and for pre-deployment training in the UK.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many handheld bomb detectors the Army has in Afghanistan. [308632]

Mr. Quentin Davies: For reasons of operational security, I am unable to reveal how many handheld metal detectors the Army has in Afghanistan. However, I can give an assurance that the numbers available are sufficient to ensure that no foot patrol is conducted in theatre without them. We will continue to deliver new equipment to theatre, including handheld metal detectors, as quickly as possible.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian agency *(a)* medical, *(b)* nursing and *(c)* paramedical staff are employed at the hospital at Camp Bastion. [309013]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 22 December 2009, there are eight nursing and one medical civilian agency staff employed at the UK hospital at Camp Bastion. There are currently no paramedical staff.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the replacement of the two CH-47 helicopters recently destroyed in Afghanistan will be funded from the Treasury Reserve. [309234]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Secretary of State for Defence gave during the oral statement on the Future Defence programme on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 810, to the hon. Member for Newport, West (Paul Flynn).

Armed Forces: Bomb Disposal

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many explosive ordnance disposal officers there are in the armed forces; [308626]

(2) how many armed forces personnel are trained to operate TALON bomb disposal robots. [308630]

Bill Rammell: Explosive ordnance disposal officers are highly skilled and specialised members of the armed forces and are employed operationally both in the United Kingdom and overseas. I am withholding the information on the numbers of personnel and those trained to operate TALON bomb disposal robots as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Catering

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many chefs in uniform there were in *(a)* the Royal Navy, *(b)* the Army and *(c)* the Royal Air Force in each year since 1997. [308761]

Bill Rammell: The following table shows numbers of regular serving chefs in the naval service, Army and Royal Air Force, each year, since 1997.

1 April each year	*Naval service*	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
1997	1,640	2,360	850
1998	1,550	2,420	770
1999	1,450	2,500	710
2000	1,350	2,380	670
2001	1,350	2,380	630
2002	1,180	2,250	600
2003	1,170	2,180	630
2004	1,170	2,240	680
2005	1,060	2,320	760
2006	1,120	2,400	730
2007	1,170	2,420	690
2008	1,120	2,380	680
2009	1,070	2,420	660

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Armed Forces: Food

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the average cost of providing a meal to a member of the armed forces when on duty in the latest period for which figures are available. [309011]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The current daily budget allowance for feeding armed forces personnel on operations, known as the Operational Daily Messing Rate (ODMR) is £3.45. To provision three meals a day, the cash value of the ODMR is allocated to meals on the following percentage basis:

	Percentage
Breakfast	15
Main meal	50
Third meal	35

Armed Forces: Health Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many service personnel resident in *(a)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, *(b)* the Highlands and *(c)* Scotland his Department has purchased accelerated access to (i) NHS and (ii) private treatment in each of the last five years. [304646]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Accelerated access is a term used by the MOD in the context of physical illnesses and injuries. It is separate to the specific "fast track" arrangements for orthopaedic treatment and separate provision is also made for access to in-patient care for mental health conditions.

Secondary health care accelerated access for service personnel is commissioned through the NHS. In England, contracts have been established with six selected NHS Trusts (located in areas of significant military population) to purchase accelerated access for elective referrals in a faster time scale than NHS standard target times, when this is necessary to meet operational requirements. There are no such formal arrangements with private sector providers for physical conditions.

If these routes would not produce timely access to treatment, then the MOD would pay for accelerated access to care from facilities in Scotland on a case-by-case basis. Cases where this has been done are not recorded centrally, and details could be obtained only from an individual search of medical records, which could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The most common medical conditions in military patients are musculo-skeletal disorders. Since April 2004, for patients with these conditions, we have arranged rapid access to diagnosis and, for the minority who are then found to need it, surgery in NHS facilities, thus enabling the services to respond to the current high operational tempo and return personnel to full fitness for task when this is clinically deliverable. In Scotland, patients will usually be assessed first by the military Regional Rehabilitation Unit (RRU) in Edinburgh, from where they will be referred if necessary for "fast track" orthopaedic surgery. Numbers of referrals are readily available only from 1 October 2005. The following table shows the number of referrals for "fast track" orthopaedic surgery made by RRU Edinburgh, 1 October 2005 to 10 December 2009.

Date	*Referrals*
1 October to 31 December 2005	30
1 January to 31 December 2006	90
1 January to 31 December 2007	62
1 January to 31 December 2008	69
1 January to 10 December 2009	88

Referrals between October 2005 and September 2008 would have been to the Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit, Northallerton. Referrals after September 2008 to date have been to the Nuffield Hospital in Glasgow.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the number of accommodation units of each *(a)* type and *(b)* number of bedrooms his Department will require for service personnel based at HM Naval Base Clyde and their families in each of the next 10 years; [309326]

(2) what plans his Department has to build new accommodation units at each location of each *(a)* type and *(b)* number of bedrooms in the Argyll and Bute constituency in each of the next 10 years; [309327]

(3) what plans his Department has to *(a)* renovate and *(b)* dispose of accommodation units in Argyll and Bute constituency. [309328]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Following the announcement on 6 May 2009 of the Maritime Change Programme, an assessment study is under way to identify the future accommodation requirements of the Royal Navy. Until this work is completed, the future of all accommodation at HM Naval Base Clyde has yet to be decided, including decisions on renovation and disposal of living accommodation.

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many accommodation units at each location of each *(a)* type and *(b)* number of bedrooms his Department owns in Argyll and Bute constituency; and whether each unit is occupied. [309355]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There are currently 2,260 single living accommodation bedspaces at HMNB Clyde. However, records are not kept centrally to indicate whether a bedspace is occupied at any point in time.

There are a total of 515 service family accommodation properties at HMNB Clyde, broken down as follows:

Type	*Number of bedrooms*	*Total*	*Occupied*	*Void*
Officers				
II (Rear Admiral, Commodore)	2 x double and 2/3 x single	5	5	0
III (Captain RN, Commander)	2 x double and 2 x single	38	21	17
IV (Lt. Commander)	2 x double and 2 x single	16	8	8
V (Lieutenant and below)	2 x double and 1 x single	30	19	11
Other ranks				
D	3 x double and 1 x single	36	29	7
C	2 x double and 1 x single	244	162	82
B	2 x double	146	85	61

In addition, there are a further 80 temporarily unused maisonettes at Rhu.

As announced on 6 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 16WS, as part of the Maritime Change Programme it has been decided that HM Naval Base Clyde will become the main operating base for all classes of submarine, including the future classes such as the replacement for the Vanguard Class, as well as for eight Sandown Class Mine Countermeasure Vessels. The future use of accommodation at HM Naval Base Clyde is being considered as part of an assessment study to identify the best way to deliver the future accommodation requirements of the Royal Navy. Until this work is completed, no decisions have been made about the future of living accommodation at the naval base, including renovation and disposal options.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 522-24, on armed forces: manpower, how many personnel in each infantry battalion were unfit for combat duty on the latest date for which figures are available. [309277]

Bill Rammell: The Ministry of Defence does not categorise service personnel according to their "fitness for combat duty". We can, however, provide information on the number of personnel who are, for whatever reason, currently either not considered deployable or only deployable in a limited range of roles. This information is reflected in the following table.

These figures include individuals who are non-deployable for both medical and non-medical reasons. Some of those classified as having limited deployability may be able to perform in combat roles, provided suitable medical support is available in theatre.

Non-medical reasons for non-deployability include soldiers under age 18 and compassionate or disciplinary cases.

The figures given include personnel filling all roles within each battalion, not just infantrymen.

As at 1 October 2009, the figures were:

Division	*Unit*	*Number not fully deployable*
Guards	1 Grenadier Guards	127
	1 Coldstream Guards	130
	1 Scots Guards	166
	1 Irish Guards	137
	1 Welsh Guards	172
Scots	1 Scots	137
	2 Scots	118
	3 Scots	135
	4 Scots	117
	5 Scots	82
Queens	1 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	167
	2 Princess of Wales Royal Regiment	106
	1 Royal Regt Fusiliers	127
	2 Royal Regt Fusiliers	147
	1 Royal Anglian	110
	2 Royal Anglian	134
Kings	1 Lancs	149
	2 Lancs	78
	1 Yorks including Gurkha Reinforcement Company 3	133
	2 Yorks	145
	3 Yorks	136
Prince of Wales	1 Mercian including Gurkha Reinforcement Company 2	91
	2 Mercian	121
	3 Mercian	142
	1 Royal Welsh	95
	2 Royal Welsh	179
Rifles	1 Rifles	148
	2 Rifles	183
	3 Rifles	130

Division	Unit	Number not fully deployable
	4 Rifles	191
	5 Rifles	165
Royal Irish	1 Royal Irish	113
Para	2 Para	131
	3 Para	110
Royal Gurkha Rifles	1 Royal Gurkha Rifles	76
	2 Royal Gurkha Rifles	89

In addition to the battalions shown above, there are three incremental Guards companies which are primarily for public duties but which can also be used to augment the other Guards battalions as required.

Unit	Number not fully deployable
Nijmegen Coy Grenadier Guards	14
7 Coy Coldstream Guards	12
F Coy Scots Guards	21

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on mental health care services for armed forces personnel in *(a)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency, *(b)* the Highlands and *(c)* Scotland in each year since 2001. [304649]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD has 15 Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) in the UK (with additional centres in Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar), which have since 2004 provided out-patient mental healthcare for members of the armed forces. Three of these are in Scotland: at RAF Leuchars, RAF Kinloss and HM Naval Base Faslane. Armed forces personnel based in the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency who require mental health services will generally be referred to the DCMH at RAF Kinloss, which is a few miles to the east of Inverness in the adjacent constituency of Moray.

Responsibility for individual management of the DCMHs is shared between the single service commands, and it is not possible to separate out costs from overall unit medical budgets. Each service funds its respective DCMHs differently, with funding provision coming from a number of areas. Due to the number of budgets to which costs would be attributable, any detailed study of DCMH finances would incur disproportionate costs.

Armed Forces: Nutrition

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what research his Department has commissioned on the nutritional status of servicemen *(a)* in theatre and *(b)* returning from theatre; [304835]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the minimum daily intake of calories required by an infantry soldier on active service in Afghanistan; [304870]

(3) what arrangements exist to monitor the health of service personnel whose diet has been limited solely to field rations for more than the recommended continuous exposure period; and if he will make a statement; [305030]

(4) what assessment he has made of the number of members of the armed forces living off field rations beyond the recommended continuous exposure periods; and if he will make a statement; [305031]

(5) what arrangements exist to monitor exposure to field rations beyond recommended limits; and if he will make a statement; [305032]

(6) what the recommended time limit is on exposure to each in-use type of field rations; and if he will make a statement. [305033]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 7 December 2009]*: The health of armed forces personnel on operations is subject to a continuous process of evidence gathering and monitoring. Two specific programmes of work are currently being undertaken to ensure that the food provided for the armed forces on operations is nutritionally fit for purpose: the Surgeon General's Armed Forces Feeding Project (SGAFFP) and the Surgeon General's Casualty Nutrition Study (SG CNS).

The SGAFFP is looking at MOD nutrition and feeding policy across the three services, both pre-deployment in UK-based units and during overseas deployments. In parallel, the SG CNS is examining dietary intake, change in body shape/body composition, micronutrient status and physical fitness before, during and after an operational deployment in healthy personnel and in those who experience combat trauma.

Ensuring that deployed personnel have the right food to provide them with the nutritional intake they need to carry out their operational roles involves much more than just making sure there is plenty of it available at all times. The SGAFFP study is collecting data on actual energy expenditures of personnel undertaking operational roles and on analyses of the tasks being undertaken and work-rest patterns. It will also gather data on changes in body shape (i.e. height, body mass, skin-folds and body girths), physical fitness and dietary intake. In addition, contextual data are being collated describing logistic supply chains and information describing the accessibility and desirability of food provision.

A preliminary review of initial work undertaken, which specifically collated data from personnel undertaking the more physically demanding operational roles under hot environmental conditions, has found no evidence to suggest that personnel in general are being underfed. Although supply chains may at times become compromised such that fresh rations are limited or not available, this has not prevented adequate provision of food to personnel on the frontline, including in 24-hour ration packs. A full analysis of the measurements is progressing.

Joint Service Publication (JSP) 456—Defence Catering Manual—Volume One (Catering Management) Chapter Eight (Operational Catering) contains extensive guidance on the provision of a nutritious and wholesome diet in a range of different operational environments, including the use of Operational Ration Packs (ORP) when operational constraints prevent other types of feeding.

There is no "recommended continuous exposure period" for ORP, which consist of a range of components that are nutritionally balanced to provide all the macro and micro nutrients that troops may need while on deployment. ORP is normally limited to the first 44 days of an operation, and it would be normal practice to move from ORP to ambient/fresh feeding as early as possible in any deployment, operational circumstances permitting. There is no evidence to date that longer use of ORP where the operational tempo precludes fresh/ambient rations has had any detrimental effect on the cognitive or physical performance of troops, although this is one of the issues that is being looked at in the studies described above.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many servicemen returning from service in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have been diagnosed with each type of nutritional ailment in each year since 2003. [304869]

Bill Rammell: The total number of individuals who were diagnosed with nutritional ailments while serving in the armed forces and are currently still serving is not held centrally, and could be obtained only by examining the medical records of all personnel. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Parcels

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many delays there were in the delivery of parcels to British troops in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Germany in each month of 2009. [307358]

Bill Rammell: We have not identified any major issues with the delivery of HM forces mail to Afghanistan during 2009. Delivery of mail to Afghanistan and movement around theatre is affected by a number of factors, including the availability of transport assets, the security situation, and a higher priority being given to essential supplies such as ammunition and food. It is therefore possible that some delays may occur either before post enters the British forces post office (BFPO) system or during transit to, or within, theatre but detailed and reliable information on this is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All mail, including parcels, that arrive in BFPO London are processed within 24 hours so there is no delay in any parcels being dispatched to Germany.

Armed Forces: Theft

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 902W, on armed forces: theft, what equipment was stolen in respect of each guilty/proven verdict. [307876]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information from the three services' and Ministry of Defence police's databases for thefts of Ministry of Defence equipment is shown in the following table. Each line reflects one offence. The severity of the sentences reflects the past records and previous convictions of the individuals involved, as well as the nature of the offence itself.

The information provided pertains solely to thefts of MOD equipment and does not include those cases where the item stolen was not identified as belonging to the MOD.

Information in the years before 2004 is not comprehensive as records relating the RAF personnel could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Year—No. of Guilty/proven verdicts	*Item(s) stolen*
1999—15 Guilty/proven verdicts	
Police Caution	Army video camera
Fined £100	Taking a vehicle without consent
Dismissal and 60 days detention	Taking a vehicle without consent
Fined £1200	Taking a vehicle without consent
Fined £250	Aggravated taking of a vehicle
112 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £1,500	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
Dismissal and eight months and 26 days detention	Two "Abloy" keys
Dismissal and pay suspended to the amount of £239.07	Taking a vehicle without consent
Fined £500	Two Maglite torches
Reduced in rank	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in damage.
140 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £212.17	14 twenty litre cans of petrol
14 days Restriction of privileges	TV set
Dismissal and Reduced in rank	Removal of classified documents and 9mm magazine
82 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £32.61	Bayonet
14 days Restriction of privileges	TV set, sleeping bags and jackets
2000—11 Guilty charges	
12 months probation and 100 hours community service, £55 costs and disqualified from driving for 12 months.	Minibus
Fined £400 and internal disciplinary action taken	Two replica pistols and a diving knife
60 hours community rehabilitation over 18 months and £250 costs	Various weapons including shotguns.
Dismissal and 165 days detention, pay suspended to the amount of £1075 and Reduced in rank	Unspecified MOD equipment
Fined £160	Two Land Rover door panels
112 days detention	Two instances of taking a vehicle without consent.
140 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £1,500	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident.
Nine months detention and £1,000 compensation.	Aggravated taking of a vehicle
112 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £383.94	Misuse of military vehicle
Dismissal	Computer software
Six months and 24 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £140	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident.

Year—No. of Guilty/proven verdicts	*Item(s) stolen*
2001—17 Guilty charges	
Six Months imprisonment	Two smoke grenades and 5 x rockets
59 days detention and reduced in rank	Two automatic rifles
28 days detention	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident.
Fined £750	Removal of pistol without consent
Fined £600	Taking a vehicle without consent
Fined £350	Taking a vehicle without consent and without appropriate permits and insurance
Severe Reprimand—mitigated by the Appropriate Review Authority to admonishment	Four charges of entering into an agreement for the conditional sale of 4 bugles and 1 drum
Dismissal and 135 days detention	Two helmets, two swords, buckskin trousers and breast plate.
Seven months detention and pay suspended to the amount of £1,427.17	Aggravated taking of a vehicle
Six months detention	Aggravated taking of a vehicle
Dismissal and six months detention	Burglary from store
Fined £500	Aggravated taking of a vehicle
Fined £500	Aggravated taking of a vehicle
Dismissal, 165 days detention and Reduced in rank	Unspecified MOD equipment
Dismissal	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident.
82 days detention and Reduced in rank	Live rounds, shotgun cartridges, two training grenades
Reduced in rank and pay suspended to the amount of £2,000	Aggravated taking of a vehicle
2002—15 Guilty/proven verdicts	
Fined £1,050 and pay suspended to the amount of £12.66	Batteries
14 days extra work and drills	Respirator
140 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £1,250	Aggravated taking of a vehicle
112 days detention	Equipment including—Armbands, Gerber knife, baton, handcuffs, batteries
Six months detention	Taking vehicle without consent
180 days detention	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in damage
42 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £106.50	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
Fined £1,000. Severe reprimand, and pays suspended to the amount of £6,043.08	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
Fined £500	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
112 days detention	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
Fined £1,000 and pay suspended to the amount of £1,000	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in damage
Fined £500	Caught in act of burglary
Reduced in rank	Multi tool and pouch
Dismissal, 122 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £100	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in damage
Fined £650	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in damage
2003—22 Guilty/proven verdicts	
Dismissal and 42 days detention and pay suspended for 318 days	Mobile telephone
Fined £300	Two electric hand lights, and 60 photographic prints
Dismissal and 80 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £158.15.	Fuel
Dismissal and three months detention	Computer components
Dismissal and 66 days detention	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
Six months forfeiture of seniority and Reprimand	Taking a vehicle without consent
Admonished	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
Fined £50 and pay suspended to the amount of £200	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
Fined £750	Taking a vehicle without consent
Admonished	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in damage
Pay suspended to the amount of £2,830.08	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
Dismissal and two years detention and Reduced in rank	Rifle breech bolts and various live rounds
56 days detention	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
112 days detention	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
Fined £450	Taking a vehicle without consent
Fined £750	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
28 days detention	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in damage
42 days detention	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in damage
Reduced in rank	Taking a vehicle without consent
Fined £650	Taking a vehicle without consent
Fined £650	Taking a vehicle without consent
Reduced in rank	In possession of rifle without lawful authority
2004—13 Guilty/proven verdicts	
Fine of £1200	Caught in act of burglary
28 days detention and paid stopped to the amount of £373.22	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
Reduced in rank	Diesel fuel
Fined £500	Taking a vehicle without consent
28 days detention and Reduced in rank	Camera
26 days detention and Reduced in rank	Camera
140 days detention	Aggravated taking of a vehicle
Reduced in rank and fined £4000	Unspecified MOD equipment
28 days detention and compensation of £3,000 paid	Aggravated taking of a vehicle

Year—No. of Guilty/proven verdicts	*Item(s) stolen*
Fined £250	Blank ammunition
Dismissal	Money and memorabilia
Police caution	Two military boots
Police caution	Two hot weather jungle boots
2005—15 Guilty/proven verdicts	
Dismissal and six months detention	£800
Dismissal and 84 days detention	Six boxes of spanners
11 months detention and Reduced in rank	Laptop computer, camcorder and flat screen TV
Dismissal, one year detention suspended and Reduced in rank	Seven susat sights, two clansman casings, 89 various batteries, 32 cylumes and one image intensifier tube
Dismissal, imprisoned six months and Reduced in rank	£564.40, £89.15 and computer system
Fine £300	Live and blank rounds, magazines, susat site, and gas plug and flash eliminator
42 days detention	In possession of pistol and magazine without authority
28 days detention	Ammunition
Pay suspended to the amount of £1,000	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in damage
84 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £160	Fuel
Dismissal and six months detention	Computer equipment
Police caution	Two Army Radios
Seven years and six months imprisonment	Browning 9mm pistol
12 months community order, 80 hours community service and £1,105.52 paid in compensation.	Various firearms, including SA80 rifle.
Fined £400	RAM memory stick
2006—32 Guilty/proven verdicts	
56 days detention	15 pairs of high-tech magnum boots
Dismissal, imprisoned five years and 252 days and Reduced in rank	Rifle
112 days detention and pay suspended to the amount of £500	Taking of vehicle without consent
Pay suspended to the amount of £1,200	Aggravated taking of a vehicle resulting in an accident
Dismissal and imprisoned for four years and 339 days	Two SA80 rifles
Dismissal and six months detention	Fuel
84 days detention	Services from Northern Rail Network
Reduced in rank	30 high-tech magnum boots
Reduced in rank	30 high-tech magnum boots
Reduced in rank	Sleeping bag, bivvi bag, two Combat 95 Shirts, three Combat 95 Trousers, four Live SA80 Magazines, Weapons Cleaning Kit, Poncho, Body Armour, Helmet, Helmet Cover, Gortex Jacket, Gortex Trousers, Desert Combat Body Armour Cover
Reduced in rank	Duplicate Iraq zone 1 medal
Dismissal	Two laptop computers
Dismissal and 18 months detention	Two motorcycles, and Land Rover and trailer
112 days detention	Land Rover and trailer
Dismissal and five years and four months imprisonment	Pistol
Dismissal and five years and eight months imprisonment and Reduced in rank	Pistol
Dismissal and five years imprisonment	Makarov 9mm pistol
Fined £1,500	Ammunition
Six months detention, suspended for one year and Reduced in rank	Component part of a firearm—regulator assembly(gas plug)
Fined £300	Sabre 500,000 volt stun baton
Fined £1,000, pay suspended to the amount of £1,500	Various items of Service property
Dismissal, eight years imprisonment and Reduced in rank	Components of firearms
Fined £1,000	Computer base units
Dismissal	Medicines
Fined £504, five days extra work and pay stopped for 30 days	Socket set and taking a vehicle without consent
120 days detention	Hand tool
56 days detention	Body armour and night vision goggles
Police caution	Camcorder
Final warning	7.62mm cartridges
12 months imprisonment	Live ammunition, pyrotechnics and explosives
Fined £490	Landrover
Fined £650	Landrover
2007—33 Guilty/proven verdicts	
Fined £500	Seven iPods, one Sony music player, one MP3 player, one digital camera, 600 x cigarettes and one Stella Artois bottle.
Reduced in rank	Security seals
Fined £400	30 litres of diesel
Admonished	Infringing copy of a copyright work
Dismissal, 11 months and one day detention and Reduced in rank	Two cameras and accessories
Admonished	Aggravated vehicle taking resulting in an accident
Dismissal and Imprisoned for seven years and five months	9mm pistol and two magazines
Six months detention	Day sack, hi-tec desert boots, crampons, optimus fuel bottle, extremities gloves, alpine scarf, gloves, solar shower, white socks, pan set, primus omnifuel stove, two rope clamps, two rolls of velcro, fleece shirt, jacket, waterproof suit, duvet jacket, micro stove.
88 days detention and Reduced in rank	Aggravated vehicle taking resulting in an accident
88 days detention	Aggravated vehicle taking resulting in an accident
Fined £3,000 and Reduced in rank	Vehicle Trailer Box Body
Fined £650	Taking a vehicle without consent
Fined £1,000 and pay suspended to the amount of £650	Aggravated vehicle taking resulting in an accident
Dismissal and 18 months detention	Aggravated vehicle taking resulting in an accident

Year—No. of Guilty/proven verdicts	*Item(s) stolen*
Dismissal and nine years and 174 days imprisonment	Pistols topslides, assorted working parts and ammunition
Dismissal and nine years and 263 days imprisonment	Pistols, topslides, assorted working parts and ammunition
Fined £1,800 and Reduced in rank	Ammunition—two signal kit pyrotechnic pistols and 16 flares
One day detention	Ammunition
Dismissal and 30 days detention	Aviation equipment
150 days detention and pay topped to the amount of £424	Arms and ammunition
Dismissal, 90 days detention and Reduced in rank	Overhead projector
105 days detention and fined £2000	Deactivated drill rifles
Dismissal and 140 days detention	Mobile phone
Reprimand, fined £250 and pay suspended to the amount of £639.29	Aviation clothing
Fined £563 and 14 days extra work	Two combat shirts
Fined £100	Ration boxes
42 days detention	Items from dry provisions store
42 days detention	Items from dry provisions store
Dismissal and six months detention	Stopwatch and attempted theft
150 days detention	Three cyalume sticks, dive suit, and sundries
Three years and six months imprisonment	Palm computer, two digital cameras, tom tom sat nav
Three years and six months imprisonment	Palm computer, two digital cameras, tom tom sat nav
Two years and six months imprisonment	Palm computer, two digital cameras, tom tom sat nav
2008—32 Guilty/proven verdicts	
Dismissal, fined £1,000 and pay suspended to the amount of £41.51	Saw kit, digital camera, an electric engraving tool, hammer drills and eight piece plumbers holesaw kit.
Admonished	Helmet mounted night vision system
120 days detention and Reduced in rank	940 litres of fuel
60 days detention	940 litres of fuel
Dismissal, 12 months detention and Reduced in rank	Ammunition and pyrotechnics
Fined £75	Night vision goggles
Reduced in rank and pay suspended to the amount of £62.21	60 litres of fuel
Reduced in rank and pay suspended to the amounts of £575.70 and £93.99	Watches
Dismissal and seven months and 16 days detention	Money
120 days detention, suspended for one year and Reduced in rank	Ammunition
Dismissal, 150 days dismissal and Reduced in rank	DVD player
90 days detention and Reduced in rank	Taking a vehicle without consent
28 days detention and compensation of £750 paid	Aggravated vehicle taking resulting in an accident
Dismissal, 15 years imprisonment and Reduced in rank	Weapons and accessories
Fined £750	Blank rounds
Dismissal and 109 days detention	Blank rounds
Dismissal and five years and six months imprisonment	Weapons
Nine months' detention	Ammunition
Six months detention and Reduced in rank	Night vision goggles
Police caution	Ration packs
Police caution	Ration packs
Police caution	Ration packs
Police caution	Ration packs
Police caution	Ration packs
12 months imprisonment	Body armour, footwear, clothing and ration packs
12 months imprisonment	Body armour, footwear, clothing and ration packs
16 weeks imprisonment, suspended for 12 months +200 hours community order	Body armour, footwear, clothing and ration packs
Fined £500, £400 costs and £15 victim surcharge	Computer parts
52 weeks imprisonment suspended for two years, 250 silver unpaid work within 12 months.	Three military flares, one smoke grenade, canteen cutlery, cleaning flannelette, military batteries, ten thousand rounds of 22 calibre rifle ammunition
26 weeks imprisonment suspended for two years, 250 hours unpaid work within 12 months.	Ammunition
12 weeks imprisonment suspended over two years, 250 hours community service and £1,000 costs.	Ammunition

Defence Medical Services: Inverness

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much Defence Medical Services spent in Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency in each of the last five years. [304647]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Defence Medical Services expenditure in the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency is centred on the Army Primary Healthcare Services (APHCS) Medical Centre at Fort George, home to the 3 Scots Regiment.

APHCS expenditure on the medical centre for the previous three financial years is provided as follows. These exclude costs in such areas as infrastructure and utilities (as well as some staff), which are the responsibility of regimental and other MOD internal budgets. As a result of departmental reorganisations, costs for previous years are not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

£000

FY	*Material and treatment costs*	*Staff capitation costs*	*Total APHCS costs*
2007-08	51	145	196
2008-09	91	148	239
2009-10 (to 17 December 2009)	57	150	207

Armed forces personnel requiring medical treatment that cannot be provided by the primary care medical centre will either receive it at military-run facilities outside the Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey constituency centres, or for the majority of secondary care, at local NHS hospitals, such as the Raigmore acute general hospital in Inverness.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307804]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since 1 May 2008, the Ministry of Defence has created two new criminal offences through secondary legislation. They are the offence of absconding by persons on bail, and the offence of agreeing to indemnify sureties, contained in articles 10 and 14 of each of SI2009/991—The Armed Forces (Conditional Release from Custody) Order 2009, and SI2009/992—The Court Martial Appeal Court (Bail) Order 2009.

No offences were abolished during this period.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307945]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Since 1 May 2008, the Ministry of Defence has not sponsored any primary legislation, and so has neither abolished nor created any criminal offences by Act of Parliament in this period.

EU Defence Policy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department plans to increase the number of its *(a)* military personnel and *(b)* civilian staff attached to (i) the EU military staff and (ii) the European Defence Agency; [304355]

(2) how many UK *(a)* military personnel and *(b)* civilian staff were attached to (i) EU military staff, (ii) the European Defence Agency, (iii) the EU Military Committee and (iv) other EU institutions in each month since May 2008. [304356]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The numbers of military personnel and MOD civilians attached to the EU Military Staff, the European Defence Agency, the EU Military Committee, and other EU institutions since May 2008 are shown in the following tables:

European Defence Agency

	Civilian	*Military*
May 2008	3	2
June 2008	3	2
July 2008	3	2
August 2008	4	2
September 2008	4	2
October 2008	4	3
November 2008	4	3
December 2008	4	3
January 2009	4	3
February 2009	4	3
March 2009	4	3
April 2009	4	3
May 2009	4	3
June 2009	3	3
July 2009	3	3
August 2009	3	3
September 2009	3	2
October 2009	3	2
November 2009	3	2
December 2009	3	2

EU Military Staff

	Military
May 2008	18
June 2008	18
July 2008	18
August 2008	18
September 2008	18
October 2008	18
November 2008	18
December 2008	18
January 2009	19
February 2009	19
March 2009	19
April 2009	19
May 2009	19
June 2009	19
July 2009	20
August 2009	20
September 2009	20
October 2009	20
November 2009	20
December 2009	20

No MOD civilian staff have been seconded to the EU Military Staff in any month since May 2008. We have no plans to increase the number of military personnel or civilian staff attached to either of these institutions.

The European Military Committee is a regular meeting of the Chiefs of Defence Staff or their representatives from the EU member states, not a standing EU structure. There has been one British military officer seconded as the Military Adviser to the permanent Chairman of the EU Military Committee in every month since May 2008.

In every month since May 2008 there has been one MOD civilian seconded to the European Council General Secretariat, one MOD civilian seconded to the European Commission, and one MOD civilian seconded to the European Global Navigation Satellite System Supervisory Authority.

Iraq: Detainees

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the US authorities on the *(a)* legal status, *(b)* detention conditions and *(c)* prospects of trial or release of the two individuals detained by British forces in Iraq in 2004 and subsequently rendered to the Bagram Theatre Internment Facility in Afghanistan. [307813]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD maintains an ongoing dialogue with US authorities on a range of detention-related matters, including the two individuals the right hon.

Gentleman referred to. The most recent contact of this nature occurred in mid-December 2009.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department has withheld the names of two individuals detained by British forces in Iraq in 2004 and subsequently rendered to the Bagram Theatre Internment Facility in Afghanistan. [307814]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not for me to release personal data to third parties, therefore, I am withholding this information. The International Committee of the Red Cross has had regular access to these two individuals.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent requests his Department has made for British officials to visit the two individuals detained by British forces in Iraq in 2004 and subsequently rendered to the Bagram Theatre Internment Facility in Afghanistan. [307818]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No recent requests of this nature have been made.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 801-3, on future defence programmes, whether the procurement of the new Chinook helicopters will affect the funding currently allocated to the Future Medium Helicopter Capability programme. [309191]

Bill Rammell: As the Secretary of State for Defence's statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 99-100WS, made clear, the Future Medium Helicopter competition has been cancelled. The funds that would otherwise have been used to procure a Future Medium Helicopter will be used to procure the additional Chinooks and fund other elements of the Rotary Wing Strategy.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 801-05, on future defence programme, and to the written ministerial statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 99-100WS, on future rotary wing strategy, how many helicopters of each type are in service in each service; what the out-of-service dates of each type of helicopter are; and what the in-service dates and numbers are for new helicopters his Department expects to procure by 2020. [309217]

Bill Rammell: "In service" has been taken to mean the effective fleet, which includes all aircraft barring those that are redundant, declared as surplus or awaiting disposal.

The number of effective aircraft within each helicopter type with each service, with accompanying planned out of service dates (OSD) as at 30 November 2009 is set out in the following tables.

Royal Navy

Aircraft type/ mark	*MOD effective fleet*	*Current planned OSD*	*Comments*
Lynx Mk3	28	2017	[1]It is expected that these aircraft will be replaced by the maritime variant of Wildcat from 2015.
Lynx Mk-8	33	2018	[1]—
Merlin Mk1	42	2029	We are currently preparing to upgrade 30 of these aircraft through the Merlin Mk1 Capability Sustainment Programme for which funding is approved. Further Mk 1 may be modified to deliver Airborne Search and Control capabilities subject to the Defence Review and investment approval.
Sea King Mk4	37	2016	Investment is required to achieve this OSD for which Main Gate approval is being sought in the next few months.
Sea King Mk6c	5	2010	—
Sea King Mk5	15	2016	The Search and Rescue capability provided by these aircraft will, subject to investment decision, be replaced by a joint PFI service with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.
Sea King Mk 7	13	2016	Investment is required to achieve this OSD for which Main Gate approval is being sought in the next few months.

[1] Indicates brace

Army

Aircraft type/mark	*MOD effective fleet*	*Current planned OSD*	*Comments*
Apache	67	2030	We expect to have to invest further in this aircraft (e.g. to address obsolescence and meet emerging requirements) during the next decade, in order to sustain its service life up to 2030.
Gazelle	39	2018	Gazelle currently provides a training capability in support of the British Army Training Unit in Canada (BATUS). We are currently exploring alternative arrangements to deliver a BATUS capability based on leased aircraft.
Lynx Mk7	66	2015	[1]It is expected that these aircraft will be replaced by the battlefield variant of Wildcat from 2014.
Lynx Mk-9	22	2018	[1]—

[1] Indicates brace

Royal Air Force

Aircraft type/mark	*MOD effective fleet*	*Current planned OSD*	*Comments*
Chinook Mk2	32	2040	[1]2 Mk 2 aircraft lost in current conflict reducing Mk2/2A fleet to 38. We expect to have to invest further in the next decade in the remaining aircraft to address obsolescence, to meet emerging requirements and to ensure they can achieve the planned OSD of 2040, although no investment decisions have yet been made. These figures exclude the eight Chinook Mk3 currently undergoing reversion. The first of these aircraft is already in service and it is expected that the remaining 7 Mk3 will be operational by the end of 2010. The OSD for these aircraft will be 2040.
Chinook Mk2a	6	2040	[1]—
Merlin Mk3	22	2030	[1]We expect to have to invest further in this aircraft (e.g. to address obsolescence and meet emerging requirements) during the next decade, in order to sustain its service life up to 2030.
Merlin Mk3a	6	2030	[1]—
Puma	34	2025	—
Sea King Mk3/3a	25	2016	The Search and Rescue capability provided by these aircraft will be replaced by a joint PFI service with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

[1] Indicates brace

These figures do not include aircraft leased by the MOD.

The adoption of the Future Rotary Wing Strategy, announced by the Secretary of State for Defence on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 99WS, has resulted in a number of changes to our planning assumptions, although the only change to OSDs is for all marks of Sea King which will now retire [illegible] 2016 rather than 2018.

We are procuring 22 additional Chinook by 2020, increasing the fleet size to 70 and subject to the Defence Review and individual investment approval the Merlin Mk3/3a fleet is due to switch from the Royal Air Force to the Royal Navy. Further Merlin Mk1 may potentially be modified to deliver Airborne Search and Control capabilities.

Military Bases: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* civilian staff and *(b)* service staff were employed at Edinburgh Castle in each of the last 10 years. [308728]

Bill Rammell: The number of staff is shown in the following table:

	Civilian staff	*Service staff*
2000	40	90
2001	40	90
2002	40	90
2003	40	90
2004	40	90
2005	40	90
2006	40	120
2007	40	30
2008	40	30
2009	50	30

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10 in accordance with statistical conventions.

The increase in the number of civilian staff in 2009 is primarily because of MOD Guard Service personnel replacing military personnel drawn from other stations.

The increase in the number of service personnel in 2006 is primarily because of an uplift in military posts to augment HQ 52 Infantry Brigade (HQ 52 Infantry Brigade) for operational deployment. The reduction to 30 service staff in 2007 follows the deployment and then subsequent relocation of 52 Infantry Brigade to Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the maintenance costs were for the military garrison at Edinburgh Castle for each of the last 10 years. [308729]

Bill Rammell: Building maintenance costs for the military garrison at Edinburgh Castle since October 2003 are shown in the following table. Information prior to October 2003 is not held.

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
October 2003 to March 2004	60,490
2004-05	152,939
2005-06	147,328
2006-07	109,586
2007-08	80,390
2008-09	307,662
April to November 2009	119,030

These figures do not include running costs, such as cleaning or utilities, which could not be separately identified in the time available.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* civilian staff and *(b)* service staff were employed at 2nd Division HQ at Craigiehall in each of the last 10 years. [308615]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Available data are shown in the following tables.

Civilian staff numbers are only available centrally from 2005 and service numbers are only available centrally from 2002. Information prior to these dates could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Civilian staff numbers
2006	120
2007	120

	Civilian staff numbers
2008	120
2009	120

	Service staff numbers
2002	80
2003	80
2004	80
2005	80
2006	80
2007	80
2008	80
2009	80

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 in accordance with statistical conventions.

Navy: Military Aircraft

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Harrier GR9 aircraft are operated by the Naval Strike Wing; and how many are *(a)* operational and *(b)* in maintenance. [309142]

Bill Rammell: Naval Strike Wing routinely operates up to 12 aircraft from the Joint Force Harrier (JFH) Forward Available Fleet (FAF).

The FAF comprises aircraft which are serviceable and those which are short-term unserviceable. Short term unserviceable aircraft are undergoing minor works, forward maintenance or any other unforeseen rectification work that can arise on a day-to-day basis. Serviceable aircraft available to the front-line commands for operational and training purposes are termed available. These statistics are only collated at fleet level and cannot be provided for individual units within JFH.

The number of Harrier aircraft which are in the forward available fleet and available as at 18 December 2009 is provided in the following table:

	Number
Forward Available Fleet	44
Available	42

Navy: Reserve Forces

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy reservists there were of each rank in each year since 1997. [308731]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is given in the following table. Records are not held prior to December 2003.

	1 April 2009	*1 April 2008*	*1 April 2007*	*1 April 2006*	*1 April 2005*	*1 April 2004*	*31 Dec 2003*
Officers							
Untrained Strength	156	159	169	188	207	48	49
Sub Lieutenant	13	20	19	32	21	29	25
Lieutenant	247	259	247	238	243	278	287
Lieutenant Commander	346	379	407	428	441	479	481
Commander	86	88	86	84	73	68	70
Captain	8	6	5	7	8	7	8
Commodore	1	2	2	1	1	2	1
Ratings							
Untrained Strength	361	314	305	331	444	345	364
Able Seaman 2	26	34	53	91	86	62	59
Able Seaman 1	241	281	285	294	310	349	357
Leading Hand	159	170	195	223	249	282	287
Petty Officer	188	205	229	272	290	314	324
Chief Petty Officer	172	176	194	184	193	212	217
Warrant Officer	17	13	12	13	2	0[1]	0[1]

The requirement for Royal Naval Reserve personnel is set by the Commander Maritime Reserves. The bearing against requirement for the years provided in the answer is:

	Percentage
2009	82
2008	92
2007	75
2006	77
2005	79
2004	64
2003	63

Note:

1. Warrant officers were not part of the rank/rate structure of the Royal Naval Reserve until 2005.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has plans to privatise the Royal Fleet Auxiliary; and if he will make a statement. [307856]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We are currently reviewing the Royal Fleet Auxiliary's business delivery model to establish if there is scope to enhance efficiencies and deliver greater value for money. The review will consider a number of alternative models. No conclusions have yet been reached.

SAR Chivenor

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the potential cost savings consequent on the proposed reduction of service at SAR Chivenor from 24 hours to 12 hours. [307995]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The future Search and Rescue Helicopter (SAR-H) service will use improved helicopters that will enable us to continue to meet our national and regional Search and Rescue requirements at night using only nine of the 12 bases.

The SAR-H competition for the future UK service is ongoing. Potential cost savings from the reduction of operating hours from 24 hours to 12 (day-time only) have been estimated to be in the order of £60 million over the planned 25-year life of the service.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the operational headquarters for Operation Atalanta will be based in 2010; who has command; what the command structure will be; how many naval assets by type will be involved; and from which navies. [309198]

Bill Rammell: Until the end of the current EU mandate in December 2010, the operational headquarters for Operation Atalanta will continue to be located at Northwood in Middlesex, commanded by a British two star military officer.

The Political and Security Committee (PSC) exercises the political control and strategic direction of the EU military operation, under the responsibility of the Council of the European Union. The European Union Military Committee (EUMC) monitors the correct execution of the operation conducted under the responsibility of the Operation Commander. In theatre command is exercised by the Afloat Force Commander, reporting to the Operation Commander.

Exact numbers and types of naval assets for 2010 have not yet been finalised, but offers of naval assets (including vital maritime patrol aircraft) have been received from a number of nations including the UK.

More information on the naval assets currently assigned to Operation Atalanta can be found at the following link:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.aspx?id=1518&lang=en

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Chief Information Officer

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what pay band his Department's chief information officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307571]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The role of chief information officer in the Department is filled on a permanent basis at SCS pay band 2.

The budget for 2009-10 for which the CIO is responsible is £44 million.

Children: [illegible] Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many care applications have been made in each month since November 2008. [307471]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The table shows the number of care orders applied for in the family courts of England and Wales in each month between November 2008 and September 2009, the last month for which figures have been published.

Statistics on public law applications are published on a quarterly basis by the Ministry of Justice in the statistical bulletin 'Court Statistics Quarterly' and annually in the command paper 'Judicial and Court Statistics'. Statistics for quarter 4 (October to December) of 2009 are due to be published in the next edition of Court Statistics Quarterly in March 2010, and will be available from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/courtstatisticsquarterly.htm.

Care orders applied for in England and Wales, November 2008 to September 2009

Month	*Number of care order applications*
2008	
November	1,254
December	1,488
2009	
January	1,305
February	1,439
March	1,674
April	1,429
May	1,402
June	1,693
July	1,460
August	1,325
September	1,507

Notes:

1. The data are taken from the HMCS FamilyMan system and summary returns.
2. Figures relate to the number of children subject to applications.
3. Figures include applications made in all three tiers of court (County Court, High Court And Family Proceedings Court).
4. Research undertaken by the Ministry of Justice has identified that some cases that have transferred from the Family Proceedings Court to the County Court have been incorrectly recorded as new applications in the County Court, thus inflating the number of new applications (see Masson et al, 2008). Work is in train to improve the accuracy of County Court records.
5. The figures for 2009 are thought to include a degree of double counting of applications initially lodged in a County Court and then transferred to a Family Proceedings Court. This issue is being investigated by Ministry of Justice statisticians, which may lead to the figures being revised in future.

Children's Services: Essex

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for further intervention in relation to children's services in Essex. [307861]

Dawn Primarolo: On 15 December, Essex county council was issued with a statutory direction to improve children's services in Essex. It requires: the establishment of a new improvement board by the end of January 2010 and the appointment of an independent chair; the improvement board to approve an improvement plan drawn up by the council which must meet the targets and requirements set by the Secretary of State and agreed with the council; the chair to report, on a bi-monthly basis, to both the Secretary of State and the leader of the council; and the chair to report to the Secretary of

State and leader of the council by early February 2010 on the most immediate priorities for action, and the capacity required to address them.

Christmas

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Christmas parties his Department plans to host in 2009; what has been budgeted for each such reception; what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* lamb, *(b)* beef, *(c)* chicken, *(d)* pork, *(e)* turkey, *(f)* other meats, *(g)* vegetables, *(h)* fruit and *(i)* alcohol to be served at each such function which is produced in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [300880]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: While each business area within the Department tends to have a Christmas function, these activities are paid for by the attendees. This Department does not pay for its officials or staff members to attend such functions. We do not collect information about the Christmas functions hosted or attended by officials or staff members in the Department and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on art works in the last 12 months. [308576]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) financial systems does not hold information on the amount of spend incurred purely for art works. Therefore the information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307957]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department's payment performance in relation to the 10-day target is reported to the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) on a monthly basis. The Department's performance from 1 November 2008 to 28 October 2009 is as follows:

	Number of invoices paid	*Percentage paid within 10 days*
November 2008	6,247	91.6
December	6,618	90.1
January 2009	6,753	91.8
February	7,166	92.5
March	10,531	93.2
April	5,682	84.1
May	6,258	92.0
June	4,564	89.1
July	6,928	94.5
August	4,142	91.2
September	5,009	91.8
October	4,264	94.3

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307803]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: No criminal offences have been created or abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by the Department for Children, Schools and Families since 1 May 2008.

GCE A-level

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of pupils of each ethnic group who were *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals achieved three A grades at A level in each year since 1997; [309213]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils of each ethnic group who were *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals achieved an A grade in A-level further mathematics in each year since 1997. [309214]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Figures giving a breakdown of ethnicity by free school meal eligibility for the requested indicators cannot be provided due to the requirement to suppress small numbers to protect confidentiality.

Figures for A level achievement by pupil characteristics only relate to qualifications taken in maintained schools, not independent schools, sixth form colleges (SFCs) or further education colleges and therefore numbers are low. Further disaggregation combining ethnicity and FSM eligibility gives figures that fall below the threshold for disclosure.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* comprehensive and *(b)* maintained schools did not obtain at least one GCSE at grade C or above, excluding equivalents, in 2009. [304904]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: 95,056 pupils in comprehensive schools did not obtain a single GCSE at grade C or above excluding equivalents[1], according to provisional figures for 2009. This represents 18.3 per cent. of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in comprehensive schools.

110,143 pupils in all maintained schools[2] did not obtain a single GCSE at grade C or above excluding equivalents in 2009. This represents 19.0 per cent. of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in all maintained schools.

[1] Qualifications included are full GCSEs, GCSE double awards and GCSEs in applied subjects only.

[2] Maintained schools include special schools but do not include hospital schools and pupil referral units.

Home Education

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has conducted an impact assessment of proposals for annual registration of home-educated children; and if he will make a statement. [308174]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: An Impact Assessment of the proposals for a registration and monitoring scheme for home-educated children was published on 19 November 2009 on the Department's website:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/childrenschoolsandfamiliesbill/

alongside the Children, Schools and Families Bill.

We will be revisiting the Home Education Impact Assessment over the coming weeks to take into account comments we have received from the DCSF Select Committee, the Local Government Association and others on the proposed costs and we will publish an updated version in the new year in line with the usual requirements for the passage of the Bill.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been recorded as harmed by their parents in the home-educated environment in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [308175]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect this information.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessors have paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302748]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: This Department does not pay for its officials or staff members vehicle clamping fines, parking fines, speeding fines and or similar.

Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with which private companies his Department has contracts involving work in Leeds West constituency; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* purpose is of each. [306948]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: This could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when the Minister for Children plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Totnes of 21 October 2009 on a proposed meeting with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Trafficking of Women and Children. [308529]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: My ministerial colleague, the Minister for Children, Young People and Families (Dawn Primarolo), replied to the hon. Member for Totnes on 11 November 2009, agreeing to a meeting to discuss the important issues around human trafficking raised last year in a Westminster Hall adjournment debate on safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many employees of his Department have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308507]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department requires employees to notify their manager immediately they are arrested and charged with a criminal offence. If the employee is convicted, the Department will investigate and start a disciplinary process which may lead to dismissal. New employees must declare convictions during the recruitment process. Records back to 1997 are not held electronically nor in the format requested and a comprehensive search of paper based files back to 1997 would result in disproportionate cost.

Ofsted: Complaints

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many complaints about Ofsted were referred to the Ombudsman in each of the last three years; [309205]

(2) how many complaints about Ofsted which were referred to the Ombudsman in each of the last three years were subject to a full investigation. [309204]

Mr. Coaker: These are matters for the Parliamentary Ombudsman. The information requested is not held by the Department for Children Schools and Families or by Ofsted.

Primary Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the revised School Admissions Code on infant class sizes; and if he will make a statement. [308179]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: This revision to the School Admissions Code does not alter the duty on admission authorities to comply with the statutory limit on infant class sizes. In addition, the revision in itself will not create additional pressure on reception class places. Most local authorities admit children to reception classes in two phases in the September or January following their 4th birthday. Around 20 per cent. of local authorities also have a third 'summer' entry, where they admit pupils in April. Requiring admission authorities to provide for places for all children from the September following their 4th birthday will have the effect of bringing forward the start date of some entries to September but not increasing the size of the cohort overall in the year. Admission authorities will already be under a duty to comply with infant class size to accommodate those existing entries at later stages in the school year.

Pupils: Bullying

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to assist schools in dealing with incidents in schools of *(a)* bullying between pupils and *(b)* verbal and physical abuse of school staff by pupils. [307816]

Mr. Coaker: The DCSF has made it clear to schools that all forms of bullying, including those motivated by prejudice, should not be tolerated. In 2007 the DCSF published over-arching guidance—"Safe to Learn: Embedding Anti-bullying Work in Schools", and we have added more tailored advice for schools covering all the equality strands: race, religion, sexual orientation and disability, gender and gender identity. We also produced guidance to schools on how to prevent and tackle cyberbullying of pupils and staff. Our cyberbullying guidance to schools makes it clear that bullying and harassment of pupils and staff online is unacceptable and provides advice and practical support to teachers on how to prevent and deal with harassment when it happens.

The guidance gives staff the practical skills to feel confident challenging all forms of bullying and supporting young people who experience bullying. Alongside our guidance, we are funding the Anti-Bullying Alliance and the National Strategies to provide support and challenge to local authorities and schools to ensure they have effective strategies to prevent and tackle bullying. The DCSF has also given schools the legal power to regulate the conduct of their pupils in and outside of schools. We intend to introduce a new duty on maintained schools and short-stay schools in 2010 to record incidents of bullying between pupils, racist incidents and incidents of verbal and physical abuse against school staff.

Schools: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make an assessment of the likely effects on other schools and colleges in east Lancashire of the proposed establishment of the Mohiuddin International Girls' College; and if he will make a statement. [306337]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: This is not an issue on which the Secretary of State can make an assessment. Local authorities are responsible for planning maintained school place provision in their area and the Learning and Skills Council is responsible for planning further education provision. It is, therefore, for them to consider what, if any, effect the proposed college might have.

Schools: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in Nottingham North constituency have been *(a)* rebuilt and *(b)* significantly refurbished since 1997. [308294]

Mr. Coaker: As part of the local authority's return to the 2007 and 2009 DCSF School Building Surveys, the following schools were reported to have benefited from investment in the Nottingham, North constituency since 1997:

New or rebuilt

Rosslyn Park Primary and Nursery School

Ambleside Primary School

Southwark Primary School

Significantly refurbished

Ellis Guilford Schools and Sports College

Hadden Park High School (2002-03 project)

River Leen School

Westbury School

Henry Whipple Primary School

Robin Hood Primary School

A further three schools have benefited from BSF investment to date.

New or rebuilt

Bigwood School (phase 1)

Oak Field School and Specialist Sports College

Significantly refurbished

Hadden Park High School (phase 1)

Schools: Security

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the numbers of children *(a)* kidnapped and *(b)* harmed where inadequate school perimeter fencing was a contributory factor in the latest period for which figures are available. [308324]

Mr. Coaker: The Department does not collect this information.

Secondary Education: Standards

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department plans to publish the 2009 secondary school achievement and attainment tables. [307868]

Mr. Coaker: The 2009 secondary school achievement and attainment tables are planned to be published on 13 January 2010.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the position of screening tools and staff training in relation to young people with special educational needs and communication difficulties in custody announced on 10 November 2009 will be provided for all staff in youth justice settings. [309189]

Mr. Coaker: A hidden disability questionnaire has been developed by Dyslexia Action and is currently being rolled out in Prison Service young offender institutions. However, we are supporting the Communication Trust—as announced on 10 November 2009 during the debate on the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill—to develop and tailor screening tools and training appropriate for staff who work with young offenders in wider youth custody settings and to staff in youth offending teams. We are currently working with the Communications Trust to develop and agree plans and time scales for delivering this.

Travelling people: Computers

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 615W, on travelling people: computers, (1) how many laptops given to Travellers have *(a)* been reported as lost or stolen and *(b)* not been recovered; and what steps are taken (i) to recover such laptops and (ii) in circumstances in which the laptops are not returned; [308795]

(2) whether parents are permitted to use the laptops loaned to their children. [308796]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Since the last answer on 29 October 2009, there have been no reports of laptops being lost or stolen or not recovered. All laptops are tagged by the local authority based Traveller Education Support Service who own them, so could be traced. Laptops are also insured against accidental damage or loss. The circumstances relating to a laptop not returned to the Service would be investigated and every effort would be made to recover it. Finally, to promote family learning, greater parental engagement in education and to improve parental literacy skills, parents are encouraged to use the laptops loaned to their children and are given training alongside their children in the safe and appropriate use of the internet.

Vetting

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he next plans to review the requirements for Criminal Records Bureau disclosures; and whether he has *(a)* set a timetable for that review and *(b)* plans to appoint a lead reviewer in respect of that review. [307860]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 50WS, about the publication of Sir Roger Singleton's report 'Drawing the Line' on the vetting and barring scheme (VBS), and the Government's response to Sir Roger's report, both of which are in the House Library.

The Government's response to recommendation 10 of the report makes clear our intention to review the requirements and the advice in relation to Criminal Records Bureau Disclosures once the VBS is in place, and to take forward the review in the new year.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department has issued any advice or guidance to the NHS in the London North Central planning region on the provision of accident and emergency facilities in that region; and if he will make a statement. [309021]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Standards

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time in accident and emergency departments in hospitals in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes was in each year since 1997. [308087]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on waiting times in accident and emergency (A and E) facilities is collected by the Department for its Quarterly Monitoring of A and E (QMAE) dataset. Trusts do not submit information on average waiting times, but they do submit information on time spent from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge in hourly time bands. This information for *(a)* type 1 (major) A and E departments in England and *(b)* Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust have been placed in the Library. Data have been provided from quarter 3 2002-03 onwards, as this is the first quarter in which QMAE data based on full data returns were published.

An alternative source of information on time spent within A and E departments is available from the A and E Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data, which are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

A and E HES data indicate that the median time spent between arrival and departure in all types of A and E departments in England in 2007-08 was 112 minutes. A and E HES data are only available for 2007-08 and are not available for Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust individually. 2007-08 A and E HES data cannot be reliably split by type of A and E, therefore the reported median waiting time figure is for all types of A and E.

Accidents: Dogs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* between 10 and 18 and *(c)* over 18 years of age were admitted to accident and emergency departments in each hospital trust in England under the external cause code of W54 as a result of an attack by a dog in 2008-09. [308843]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. A table showing a count of the number (admission episodes) admitted to hospital via accident and emergency departments for hospital providers in England, with a cause code of W54 (bitten or struck by dog) has been placed in the Library. This information has been provided by the following age groups: under 10, between 10 and 18 and over 18, for the financial year 2008-09.

Autism

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to consult on his Department's adult autism strategy prior to its publication. [309182]

Phil Hope: From the outset, the development of the autism strategy for adults has been underpinned by the two principles of co-production and inclusivity. The public consultation on the strategy was designed to ensure that people with autistic spectrum condition, their families and carers could identify the barriers to access and their key priorities for change in public services.

The consultation which included regional events, on-line discussion forums and targeted engagement, aimed at hard-to-reach groups, received over 1,000 responses. These responses will set the direction of travel for the autism strategy.

The strategy will continue to benefit from the work of its external reference group comprising service users, family carers and the voluntary sector providers as well as professionals who design, develop and provide services.

There will be a further national consultation on the health and social care guidance, mandated by the legislation, which will accompany the strategy and is scheduled for publication in December 2012. We are equally committed to involving service users, carers and the voluntary sector in the production of the guidance.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the implementation plan for his Department's adult autism strategy will be published at the same time as that strategy. [309183]

Phil Hope: Yes, we will be publishing a delivery plan alongside the strategy.

Autism: Research

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 549W, on autism: health services, if he will commission research from autism spectrum experts into cerebral inhibition soothing behaviours and the compromised capacity of persons who are autistic. [308467]

Phil Hope: The Department has no plans to commission research into cerebral inhibitions soothing behaviours and the compromised capacity of persons who are autistic.

Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the full text of the Statutory Warning Notice issued by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to Basildon and Thurrock Foundation Trust on 20 October 2009; and if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the trust's letter to CQC on 17 November 2009, *(b)* the minutes of the formal escalation meeting of 20 November 2009 attended by Monitor and *(c)* Monitor's letter to the trust of 23 November 2009 and the trust's response of 24 November 2009. [308066]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Care Quality Commission has published a report of its inspection of Basildon and Thurrock Foundation Trust on 8 October 2009, which led to the issue of a statutory warning notice on 20 October 2009. The inspection report includes the findings and recommendations set out in the warning notice. The report was published on 4 November 2009, and can be found on the Commission's website at:

http://2009ratings.cqc.org.uk/findcareservices/informationabouthealthcareservices/overallperformance/searchfororganisation.cfm?faArea1=customWidgets.trustsafteyquestions_show_1&cit_id=RDD&question=HCAI

The Care Quality Commission has informed the Department that it did not receive a letter from Basildon and Thurrock Foundation Trust on 17 November 2009. However, the trust did write to Monitor on this date. The chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of the NHS foundation trusts), has provided copies of the letters my hon. Friend requested dated 17 November 2009, 23 November 2009, which serves as a minute of the formal escalation meeting of 20 November and 24 November. Copies have been placed in the Library.

Care Homes: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 110 of the 2009 Pre-Budget Report, *(a)* what current variations in spend on residential care are; how £250 million of savings will be achieved by reducing such variations; how much of these savings will be achieved in each financial year; and what these savings will be spent on. [308144]

Phil Hope: Our publication, "Use of Resources in Adult Social Care—A Guide for Local Authorities", shows that there are significant variations in the proportion of funding that authorities spend on residential care provision. This runs against our ambitions for a more personalised social care system including greater support for people in their own homes. For example, spend in 2007-08 on residential care for:

older people varied from up to 70 per cent. and as low as 30 per cent. of older peoples' spend;

those adults with learning disability needs varied from below 10 per cent. to over 80 per cent. of learning disability spend; and

those adults with a physical or sensory impairment and those with a mental health need varied from as low as 10 per cent. to over 60 per cent. of spend.

The pre-Budget report announcement that local authorities need to make £250 million efficiency savings by 2012-13 from reducing variations in residential care spend will be achieved by supporting more people to live in their own homes. Through our Care Services Efficiency and Delivery programme, we will continue to support local authorities in helping more people to live in their own homes. Our programme will continue to focus on the way in which local authorities commission services that help people remain in their own homes. These include a strong focus on the use of new technologies, including telecare, a greater focus on prevention and joint working between health and social care and the creation of better housing solutions through more supported living services. This will help to reduce the high current variations in residential care spend.

In the Queen's speech, Government announced a further £420 million to provide free personal care for people with the highest needs to live at home. The free personal care offer is a major part of how we will achieve a reduction in these variations.

The pre-Budget report announcement, that authorities need to make £250 million efficiency savings by 2012-13, did not stipulate how much of these savings will need to be achieved in each financial year. It is therefore down to each local authority in conjunction with local stakeholders to deliver a fair and fiscally sustainable social care system to address these efficiency targets.

These savings will remain with local authorities and can be used to meet the growing pressures on social care budgets due to demographic changes and to support their contribution to providing free personal home care for those with the highest need.

The research used to calculate this figure is in "Use of Resources in Adult Social Care—A Guide for Local Authorities", which was published in October 2009. It is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107596

A copy of the document, showing the graphs and the national variations, has been placed in the Library. This information can also be accessed via the new NHS Information Centre NASCIS website at:

http://nascis.ic.nhs.uk

Contraceptives: Health Education

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health at what cost to the public purse his Department's campaign on contraception, launched on 30 November 2009 was developed; what funding his Department plans to provide to support the campaign in the financial years *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; and by what mechanisms his Department plans to evaluate the effectiveness of that campaign. [309208]

Gillian Merron: Estimated advertising expenditure to date on the 'Contraception. Worth Talking About' campaign is £1,218,000. Estimated advertising costs for further activity planned for February 2010 are approximately £1,5[illegible]3,000. Budgets for 2010-11 and 2011-12 are currently under review and therefore no amounts have yet been allocated to campaign work.

A framework for evaluating the campaign is being developed to measure its effectiveness both to meet long-term objectives (reducing teenage pregnancy rates) and shorter-term changes in attitude and behaviour (which should in turn impact on the longer-term objectives). The evaluation is expected to be based on econometric modelling.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on levels of demand for NHS contraceptive services of his Department's campaign on contraception, launched on 30 November 2009; what assessment he has made of the capacity of each primary care trust to fit long-acting reversible contraceptives; and if he will make a statement. [309209]

Gillian Merron: The Department of Health has allocated significant additional funds to primary care trusts (PCTs) to help them to improve access to the full range of contraception in their local areas, as well as providing further additional funds to strategic health authorities to help them to work with PCTs to tackle high rates of teenage conceptions. The Department has assisted PCTs to plan for any changes in demand arising from the 'Contraception. Worth Talking About' campaign.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health through which media his Department's contraception campaign will be delivered; which *(a)* contraception methods will be publicised and *(b)* groups will be targeted through each medium; what methodology was used to determine which medium to use in each case; and if he will make a statement. [309210]

Gillian Merron: The "Contraception. Worth Talking About" campaign will be delivered via television, radio, print and digital advertisements, with other print, radio and digital public relation activity. The Department uses a communications planning agency to advise on the media to use to reach our target audiences.

The primary audience for the campaign is women aged 16-25, with secondary audiences being parents and health care professionals. These audiences are targeted in all the media used for the campaign. The primary message of the campaign is to promote an awareness of contraceptive choices and to encourage people, especially young people and their parents, to have a more open discussions about contraception and to talk to a doctor or nurse to determine the best contraceptive for their individual circumstances.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what reports his Department *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* produced for the purposes the development of his Department's campaign on contraception, launched on 30 November 2009; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such report; if he will place in the Library a copy of the research which shows there is a lack of knowledge and misinformation, which hinders safer sexual behaviour, referred to in his Department's press release of 30 November 2009; and what the (i) title and (ii) target group is in respect of each phase of his Department's campaign. [309216]

Gillian Merron: The "Contraception. Worth Talking About" campaign was informed by a review of sexual health marketing and communications which produced a report—"Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Marketing". The Department also commissioned qualitative research on women's knowledge and perception of contraception. A copy has been placed in the Library.

The Department's press release of 30 November referred to data gathered from a polling exercise undertaken between 16 and 20 October, and a copy of the results of this work has been placed in the Library.

"Contraception. Worth talking About" is aimed primarily at women aged 16 to 25. The first burst of activity took place between 30 November and 21 December 2009, and a second burst will take place in February/March 2010. "Chlamydia. Worth Talking About" is aimed at young people aged 16 to 24, and will launch in January 2010.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308829]

Phil Hope: Costs of conference services are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure on conference and banqueting services has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of managing public money and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement has made to the Waterfront Partnership in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305166]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement tell us they have had a rolling three-month contract with Freshwater Public Affairs, formerly The Waterfront Partnership, which began in May 2009. Up to and including November 2009, the NHS Institute has paid Freshwater Public Affairs £42,000. This contract sits alongside the NHS Institute's overall contract for communications and public relations support with Freshwater UK.

Given the commercially sensitive nature of the content of the contract, it is not intended to place a full copy of this information in the Library but the NHS Institute is willing to discuss the contract with the hon. Member.

Derriford Hospital: Surgery

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full minimally invasive oesophagectomies have been carried out at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth in each month from August to December 2009. [308567]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not collected centrally.

Disabled: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the results of each model *(a)* prepared and *(b)* commissioned by his Department on (i) removal of and (ii) changes to attendance allowance and disability living allowance. [308784]

Phil Hope: The Department has commissioned modelling of funding options for care and support from the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU). This includes consideration of integration of some disability benefits with the care and support system. The methods used in the modelling were published in a technical report on the PSSRU's website in July at:

www.pssru.ac.uk.

Interim results from the modelling are not being released at this time for a number of reasons. The interim results were not based upon the latest policy assumptions, reflecting, for example, what people have been telling us in the consultation, and the Prime Minister's announcement on free personal care. We have concluded that to release the interim results could be unhelpful and misleading.

The PSSRU continue to model the funding options for care and support based on revised assumptions. We intend to publish more details of this work this year. In the meantime, the whole methodology of the interim report was published on the PSSRU's website in July. The top-level costs and benefits are in the impact assessment published with the Green Paper and available on the Big Care Debate website.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether changes have been made to the financial assumptions underpinning the Government's financial modelling for, a national care service consequent on the announcement of the policy that there will be no cash losers among existing disability benefit recipients. [309118]

Phil Hope: As we said in the Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together", if we reform disability benefits, anyone receiving an affected benefit at the time of the reform would continue to receive the equivalent level of support and protection.

Our working assumption in the financial modelling has therefore consistently been that nobody would experience a cash loss as a result of the reforms.

Drugs: Prisons

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Integrated Drug Treatment System in the prison and criminal justice system; [307374]

(2) how many prisoners have received enhanced prison clinical drug treatment. [307375]

Phil Hope: An Independent evaluation of the Integrated Drug Treatment System has been commissioned by the Department. The independent evaluation began in 2008 and is timetabled to be completed in 2011.

In 2008-09, 64,767 prisoners received clinical drug treatment. Of these, 45,135 were on a detoxification programme and 19,632 were on a maintenance prescribing programme.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners received a *(a)* detoxification and *(b)* prescribing service under the Integrated Drug Treatment System in the last two years. [308215]

Phil Hope: In 2007-08, a total of 58,809 prisoners received a clinical drug intervention. Of these, 46,291 received detoxification and 12,518 a maintenance prescription for opioid dependency.

In 2008-09, a total of 64,767 prisoners received a clinical drug intervention. Of these 45,135 received detoxification and 19,632 received a maintenance prescription for opioid dependency.

All clinical interventions for drug treatment, whether for detoxification or maintenance purposes, are delivered as part of the integrated drug treatment system and in line with the latest clinical guidelines.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on drug treatment in prisons distributed through *(a)* the National Offender Management Service and *(b)* primary care trusts in the last 12 months. [308218]

Phil Hope: In 2009-10, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) allocated £42.5 million for the delivery of drug interventions in prisons. This includes funding for accredited drug treatment programmes, CARATs (counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare services) and compact based drug testing.

In the same year, the Department invested £210 million in the provision of health care services to offenders, including funding for clinical drug treatments. The Department allocates funding to primary care trusts (PCTs) via strategic health authorities, on the basis of the relative needs of their populations.

In the last 12 months, the Department has additionally allocated £39.5 million to NHS PCTs for the targeted implementation of the integrated drug treatment system.

General Practitioners: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioner surgeries in Nottingham North constituency offer extended opening hours. [308497]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

In July 2009, the Department collected data on the number of general practitioner (GP) practices offering extended opening hours at primary care trust (PCT) level. At this time, Nottingham City PCT had 42, out of 61, GP practices offering extended opening hours.

Health Services

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what projects in the NHS involve use of customer journey mapping to improve services; [307951]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of use of customer journey mapping to improve services in the NHS. [307952]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is supportive of local organisations and frontline staff using customer journey mapping and has worked with Cabinet Office to develop a tool kit for frontline staff. The Department recognises that focusing on user experience is a key way in driving efficiencies in the system and releasing further savings. Better understanding of our customers is a key tool for accelerating quality improvements across the national health service. The toolkits for customer journey mapping (and customer segmentation and customer satisfaction) are freely available and published on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/public_service_reform/innovation/resources.aspx

The Department does not collect centrally any data regarding the number of NHS initiatives which employ the technique nor do we have a system for evaluating individual projects. The toolkits do stress the importance of evaluation and provide methods for doing so.

Health Services: Isle of Man

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 November 2009, to question 300313, how much the Isle of Man government has paid for elective health service treatments of each kind provided under the agreement with his Department in each of the last 10 years. [308645]

Gillian Merron: The Isle of Man does not pay for elective treatment under the current reciprocal healthcare agreement. The following table shows elective treatment, commissioned by the Isle of Man, outside of that agreement, over the past six years. The allocation of funding provided by the United Kingdom to the Isle of Man under the current bilateral agreement is also shown.

						£
Contracted trust	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Aintree	540,000.00	—	—	—	—	—
Alder Hey	612,000.00	605,000.00	491,000.00	501,000.00	884,000.00	626,000.00
Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology	1,044,000.00	1,016,000.00	800,000.00	780,000.00	834,000.00	792,000.00
Leeds Teaching	91,843.00	—	—	—	—	—
Liverpool Heart and Chest	2,184,000.00	2,057,000.00	1,449,000.00	1,110,000.00	1,023,000.00	969,000.00
Liverpool Women's	252,000.00	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen	1,692,000.00	1,887,000.00	1,178,000.00	853,000.00	836,000.00	550,000.00
Southport and Ormskirk	83,000.00	92,000.00	98,000.00	109,000.00	146,000.00	—
Walton Centre	444,000.00	389,000.00	367,000.00	350,000.00	251,000.00	238,000.00
Wrightington Wigan and Leigh	516,000.00	—	—	—	—	—
Non contracted activity						
All trusts	623,157.00	1,919,000.00	1,417,000.00	1,219,000.00	970,000.00	512,000.00
Total spend	8,082,000.00	7,965,000.00	5,800,000.00	4,922,000.00	4,944,000.00	3,687,000.00
Department of Health Reciprocal agreement funding	2,862,000.00	2,787,000.00	2,650,000.00	2,500,000.00	3,000,000.00	3,000,000.00
Net spend (total minus Department of Health funding)	5,220,000.00	5,178,000.00	3,150,000.00	2,422,000.00	1,944,000.00	687,000.00

Home Care Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what invitations he has made to members of Opposition parties since his appointment offering the opportunity to work consensually on the reform of social care. [308565]

Phil Hope: None. The Secretary of State has spoken many times of the need for a national consensus on reform of social care, and remains open to positive approaches.

Home Care Services: Pay

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase the pay of people who work in social care. [308566]

Phil Hope: It is for local employers to determine the level of pay for the adult social care work force. We know that low pay can be a concern for some in the social care sector. But, because the Government do not directly employ these workers, we need to work with local authorities to ensure that the providers they work with have a high quality work force, with fair terms and conditions.

Local Authority Social Services Act 1970

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance issued under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 is in force. [307686]

Phil Hope: Successive Secretaries of State have issued many items of guidance under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 during the last 40 years. It would incur disproportionate cost to retrieve and examine departmental records for the entire period and extract copies of all extant items.

Maternity Services: Obesity

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department issues guidance to NHS hospitals on the admission of overweight women to maternity units. [308012]

Ann Keen: The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued guidance to the national health service on improving nutrition of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children in low-income households, in March 2008. This guidance is appropriate to all women irrespective of their income. This guidance recommends that obese women should be encouraged to lose weight before and after pregnancy through a structured and tailored programme that combines advice on healthy eating and physical exercise with ongoing support to allow for sustained lifestyle changes. During pregnancy, women should have the support of a dietician for assessment and advice on healthy eating and regular exercise.

Local trusts have local protocols to support the management of obese pregnant women that take account of the need of these women, and the facilities and services available to them. Arrangements through maternity and neonatal networks support these mothers and their babies.

Medical Research

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding was allocated by his Department for medical research in England and Wales in each of the last three years; and how much of such funding was spent in Wales; [308129]

(2) how much of the funding allocated to medical research by his Department in England and Wales in each of the last three years was deemed to be of lower priority; and how much such lower priority funding was spent in Wales. [308130]

Gillian Merron: The funding information available is shown in the following table.

Department of Health research funding

		£ million
	NHS Research and Development (R and D)	*NHS R and D funding spent in Wales*
2006-07	659	2
2007-08	730	1.7
2008-09	792	2.7

The Welsh administration separately funds health research in Wales.

The health research system in England is one which the available funds are allocated following open and rigorous competition in support of high quality research focused on the needs of patients and the national health service.

Medical Treatments: Advertising

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many websites have been asked to remove advertisements for botulinum toxin, fillers and other non-surgical cosmetic procedures under the Medicines (Advertising) Regulations 1994. [308067]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Medicines (Advertising) Regulations 1994 prohibit the advertising of prescription only medicines, including botulinum toxin products, to the public. These regulations are enforced by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Fillers and cosmetic procedures are not covered by these regulations since they are not classified as medicines.

In 2009 to date, 189 advertisers have amended promotional materials relating to botulinum toxin products following MHRA action on complaints received. This includes 134 cases where the material reviewed consisted only of website information. Corresponding figures for the number of advertisers who amended their advertising for botulinum toxin products in 2006, 2007 and 2008 were 47, 125 and 75, respectively.

Mental Health Services: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Leeds social services spent on mental health services in each year since 2001. [306932]

Phil Hope: Data on local authority commissioned adult social care mental health expenditure is collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The following table shows the total gross current expenditure by Leeds local authority (LA) on mental health services for adults aged 18 to 64 years of age, since 2001, in both cash and real terms (where the figures are adjusted for inflation).

This is information that is derived from data collected annually on social services expenditure by local authorities with social services responsibilities.

Expenditure on mental health services for those aged 65 and over is not separately available as it is included in expenditure on older people.

Leeds LA

	Gross current expenditure—Cash terms (£000)
2008-09[1]	18,631
2007-08	17,170
2006-07	16,074
2005-06	16,015
2004-05	14,450
2003-04	12,895
2002-03	12,607
2001-02	10,506
2000-01	7,161

	Gross current expenditure—Real terms (£000)
2008-09[1]	18,631
2007-08	17,591
2006-07	16,944
2005-06	17,381
2004-05	15,976
2003-04	14,653
2002-03	14,729
2001-02	12,670
2000-01	8,829

[1] Data for 2008-09 is provisional

Source:

PSS Ex1

Mentally Incapacitated

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 550W, on the Mental Capacity Act 2005, how his Department monitors the use of the power under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to modify a situation pertaining to someone with disability in order to maximise their individual capacity; and if he will make a statement. [308531]

Phil Hope: Monitoring of compliance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 is part of the work of the independent regulator of health and social care, the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The CQC has published guidance, 'Guidance for CQC staff and providers of registered care and treatment services—The Mental Capacity Act deprivation of liberty safeguards', which explains how the Mental Capacity Act affects the way regulated care, treatment and support services take decisions and provide care for people who cannot take some decisions for themselves.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Health Services

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will update the musculoskeletal services framework to incorporate the recommendations of the National Audit Offices report, Services for People with rheumatoid arthritis. [308568]

Ann Keen: The Department has no plans to update the musculoskeletal services framework to incorporate the recommendations of the National Audit Office's report, "Services for People with Rheumatoid Arthritis".

The Department welcomes the National Audit Office's report into national health service provision of services for people with rheumatoid arthritis. The Government are committed to improving care and outcomes for all people with long term conditions, including people with rheumatoid arthritis.

For example, the Department has published a good practice commissioning pathway for inflammatory arthritis which supports clinicians in identifying cases of rheumatoid arthritis and ensuring that they are set on the right pathway of care. This describes key symptoms, for example where patients should be referred for urgent treatment.

The pathway is also aimed at supporting local implementation of good practice, to improve efficiency, reduce delays, and improve quality of service provision in a safe and effective way.

The Department has also published "Your health, your way—a guide to long term conditions and self care" which provides people living with long term conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, with information about the choices that should be available to them locally to enable them to self care in partnership with health and social care professionals. The guide can be found on the NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk/Planners/Yourhealth/Pages/Yourhealth.aspx

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to improve the collection of outcomes data on musculoskeletal services. [308569]

Ann Keen: The Department has approved funding for three new national clinical audits that will collect data on falls and bone health in older people; hip fractures; and pain. These important new national audits, which have relevance for people with musculoskeletal conditions, were announced by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership in September 2009.

NHS: Essex

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 855, on hospital trusts: Essex, (1) what the expected future role is of the tier of clinical leadership replaced by the new clinical leadership; what the cost of the former clinical leadership will be in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement; [308073]

(2) what the acceptable timescale is considered to be for the Basildon and Thurrock Foundation Trust to deliver the improvements necessary in care standards; and if he will make a statement; [308074]

(3) what the agreed clinical and nursing changes are that the programme delivery office will use as benchmarks. [308076]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has asked the chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) to write to my hon. Friend and he will do so shortly. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 855, on hospital trusts: Essex, what regular updates on progress he plans to provide to the House on improving care standards; how often he will provide them; and if he will make a statement. [308075]

Andy Burnham: As I stated in the House on 30 November, I will provide updates on the improvements at Basildon and Thurrock University NHS Foundation Trust as soon as I am updated by Monitor.

Monitor has indicated to me that its board will review the trust's progress every month and it will explicitly consider, and then take, whatever action is necessary to ensure that performance at Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust improves on a sustainable and measurable basis.

NHS: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much funding was allocated in respect of patients with social care and healthcare needs who are part-funded by the NHS and the local authority in each primary care trust area in each of the last three years; [309305]

(2) how many patients with social care and healthcare needs have been part-funded by the NHS and the local authority in each primary care trust area in each of the last three years. [309306]

Phil Hope: The Department does not hold information on the amount of funding allocated for, or the amount of funding spent on, social care and health care services that are part funded by the national health service and local authorities (LAs).

LAs pay for social care services from their general funds, which they receive via a combination of Formula Grant from central Government and local taxation. Funding allocations from central Government to LAs are not ring-fenced; LAs are free to determine spending priorities locally to meet the needs of their populations.

Revenue allocations are made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs). Similarly, it is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally, taking into account both local priorities and the NHS Operating Framework.

Arrangements for the part-funding of social care and health care services are determined at a local level. The information requested may be available locally from individual LAs and PCTs.

NHS: Gloucester

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses are employed in Gloucester; and what the equivalent figures were in 1997. [308230]

Ann Keen: The information is not held in the format requested.

The number of national health service hospital and community health services staff in Gloucester for each specified staff group in each specified organisation as at 30 September 2002 to 30 September 2008, is given in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services (HCHS): NHS staff in each specified staff group in each specified organisation as at 30 September each year

Headcount

Total specified organisations	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Medical and dental staff[1]	540	588	662	712	740	711	782
General Practitioners (GPs)	419	430	436	452	445	437	449
HCHS qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	2,877	3,086	3,180	3,336	3,212	3,311	3,507
GP practice nurses	237	237	237	273	299	296	316
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust							
Medical and dental staff1	497	542	613	658	685	673	725
HCHS qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	1,928	2,152	2,163	2,300	2,231	2,320	2,407
Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust (PCT)[2]							
Medical and dental staff[1]	43	46	49	54	55	38	57
GPs	419	430	436	452	445	437	449
HCHS qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	949	934	1,017	1,036	981	991	1,100
GP practice nurses	237	237	237	273	299	296	316

[1] Excludes medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are GPs working part time in hospitals have been excluded to avoid double counting.

[2] Gloucestershire PCT was formed in October 2006 from a complete merger of Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT, Cotswold and Vale PCT, and West Gloucestershire PCT. Figures from 2002-06 are an aggregate of these predecessor organisations.

Due to the high number of Trust mergers and the formation of PCTs in 200[illegible] it is impossible to accurately map figures for these organisations prior to 2002.

GPs and GP practice nurses are only employed by PCTs.

Sources:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to recall any of the advance given to BT for work on the implementation of Cerner Millennium in the South of England as part of the efficiency savings to be made from the National Programme for IT. [308775]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A payment was made earlier this year to BT as working capital to aid with infrastructure, planning and development work in advance of the deployment of systems and services. This is in line with Treasury rules, and in return for a reduction in payments to be earned for future successful delivery. There are no current plans to seek reimbursement of this payment.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Pre-Budget Report, Cm 7747, what the *(a)* initial budget and *(b)* outturn was in respect of (i) revenue and (ii) capital expenditure for (A) the National Programme for IT and (B) each element of the National Programme for IT in each year since the inception of the programme; and how much (1) capital and (2) revenue funding has been allocated for each remaining year of the programme. [307703]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Comprehensive information in the form requested is not available. This is because the overall cost of the national programme for information technology (NPfTT) includes both central costs, and the costs managed by local national health service bodies incurred in implementing the systems, for example in training staff and upgrading computer hardware. Local information is not routinely collected in a way that differentiates expenditure on the IT programme from other local TT-related expenditure.

Within the Department, NHS Connecting for Health, which came into being in April 2005, is responsible both for central expenditure necessary for ensuring delivery of the IT systems under the national programme, and for maintaining the critical business systems previously provided to the national health service by the former NHS Information Authority. NHS Connecting for Health does not prepare annual whole-programme budgets for NPfTT activity separate from those for its wider responsibilities as this would involve the unnecessary apportionment of common management, administrative and support costs. For the same reason, separate outturn figures are not routinely reported for management information purposes.

Information covering all NHS Connecting for Health's responsibilities is shown in the following tables.

Initial Budget

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Capital	1,198	1,055	915	917.0	800.0
Revenue	799	638	607	631.3	580.00

£ million

	Actual expenditure					*Forecast Outturn*
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Capital	360.0	429.0	589.0	686.0	535.1	562.6
Revenue	260.0	539.0	528.0	507.0	528.4	573.8

Notes:

1. All sums exclude capital charges.
2. The amounts include the original costs of NPfTT contracts, which have not changed, but also include new and additional requirements that have been added, supported by separate business cases and funding, as reported by the National Audit Office.
3. Expenditure plans for years beyond 2009-10 are currently being reviewed in the light of announcements made in the pre-Budget report, and of the evolving IT needs of the NHS.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on deployment of Lorenzo and Cerner Millennium in each early adopter site for the National Programme for IT. [307706]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Lorenzo release 1.0 is currently being used for radiology requests and results by the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust in its general surgery and urology wards, and for the same purpose by Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, where, since December 2009, the clinical documentation functionality has also been implemented. South Birmingham Primary Care Trust (PCT) has a number of podiatrists using the system, working in eight different physical locations across the PCT.

In October 2009, Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust went live with clinical documentation in rheumatology, and Five Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust went live across their Halton, Wigan, St. Helens, Warrington and Knowsley sites. In December 2009, Stockport PCT was the sixth trust to begin using the Lorenzo system.

The next software release (release 1.9) extends functionality for all patient administration and clinical care management activities. Bury PCT went live with release 1.9 at the beginning of November 2009 and staff are now regularly using the system to manage case notes, view detailed patient records, and administer care activities.

In London there have been five Cerner Millennium deployments, at Barnet and Chase Farm, Queen Mary's Sidcup, Barts and the London, the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trusts, and since November 2009, at Kingston Hospital NHS Trust. In addition, the London Programme is managing two other sites at Homerton and Newham which were installed systems outside the National Programme, bringing the total Cerner Millennium sites in the capital to seven.

In the south, eight health communities have to date gone live with the system. Each health community typically comprises an acute Trust and the associated PCT sites in its area. The relevant acute trusts are Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust; Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust; Weston Area Health NHS Trust; Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust; Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust; Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust; Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust; and Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust.

NHS: Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of maintaining NHS websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [307940]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The cost for maintaining national health service websites that are run by individual NHS organisations are not held centrally by the Department and cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

NHS: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the salary is of the *(a)* chief executive and *(b)* chair of each (i) hospital and (ii) primary care trust in the North West. [308557]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. The remuneration of board level non executive and executive directors is a matter of public record and published in the annual accounts of national health service organisation.

Northampton Hospital: Waiting Lists

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people had been waiting for operations at Northampton General Hospital for *(a)* between three and six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months, *(c)* between one and two years and *(d)* over two years in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [308756]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

In-patient waiting list figures for Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust are shown in the following table.

		Patient waiting by time waited at period end			
Period	*Total patients waiting for admission*	*3-6 months*	*6-12 months*	*12-24 months*	*24+ months*
March 1997	5,796	1,444	1,207	219	0
March 2009	3,516	116	0	0	0
October 2009	3,707	123	0	0	0

Source:
Department of Health KH07 and MMR returns from NHS trusts

Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 162W, on the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board, whether the publication of the report of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board is contingent on the Government's response to its recommendations; [308774]

(2) when he plans to publish the final report of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board. [309121]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 9 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 128W.

Obesity: Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished consultant episodes there have been for *(a)* paediatric and *(b)* adolescent obesity treatment in (i) England and (ii) each strategic health authority in each year since 1997. [308092]

Gillian Merron: This information has been placed in the Library.

Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 165W, on social services, for what reason publication of the interim report of the Personal Social Services Research Unit is considered unhelpful; and what discussions he has had with external stakeholders on the effect of publication of the interim report on their engagement with the Big Care Debate. [308776]

Phil Hope: The interim results from the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) were not based upon the latest policy assumptions, reflecting, for example, what people have been telling us in the consultation, and the Prime Minister's announcement on free personal care. We have therefore concluded that to release the interim results could be unhelpful and misleading.

The PSSRU continue to model the funding options for care and support based on revised assumptions. We intend to publish more details of this work next year. In the meantime, the whole methodology of the interim report was published on the PSSRU's website in July at:

www.pssru.ac.uk

The top-level costs and benefits are in the impact assessment published with the Green Paper and available on the Big Care Debate website.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which month of 2010 he plans to publish his Department's White Paper on the future of social care. [309119]

Phil Hope: We consulted on the Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together" between 14 July and 13 November 2009 and received more than 29,000 formal consultation responses. Many thousands more people participated in the debate through stakeholders, who have told us that they obtained input from over 24,000 people in preparing their responses. We are currently analysing the responses to the consultation.

These responses will feed into a White Paper, to be published early this year.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Big Care Debate events have been held since the publication of the Green Paper on Shaping the Future of Care Together; in which constituencies such events have been held; and which hon. Members *(a)* have been invited to attend and *(b)* are recorded as having attended such events. [309120]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Forest of Dean (Mr. Harper), on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1058-59W.

Townlands Hospital

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions his Department has had with Oxfordshire primary care trust on Townlands hospital in Henley-on-Thames in the last 12 months. [307864]

Phil Hope: The Department has not had any discussions with Oxfordshire primary care trust about Townlands hospital in the last 12 months.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 7 January 2010

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Office's buildings attended by civil servants in his Office there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307470]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Cabinet Office on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1253W.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister how many and what percentage of parliamentary questions tabled for written answer by him on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307534]

The Prime Minister: My office aims to answer all ordinary written parliamentary questions within five working days, and named day written parliamentary questions on the day named.

In the parliamentary session 2008-09 87 per cent. of named day questions were answered on the day named.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister whether it is his policy not to make any substantive comment on Iraq until the Chilcot Inquiry on Iraq has completed its work. [308058]

The Prime Minister: I will continue to take forward the Government's policy in Iraq. As to the inquiry, it continues to sit and will hear evidence and then make its report.

Members: Surveillance

Robert Neill: To ask the Prime Minister with reference to the answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Haltemprice and Howden (David Davis) of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1166W, on Members surveillance, whether the Wilson Doctrine applies to forms of surveillance and interception which are not subject to authorisation by the Secretary of State's warrant. [308634]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave on 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1166W.

Official Gifts

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what official gifts he and his predecessor have received from the President of Pakistan in each year since 2001; [307738]

(2) what official gifts he and his predecessor have received from the President of Afghanistan in each year since 2001. [307751]

The Prime Minister: The Government have published annual lists of gifts received and [illegible] by Ministers in an official capacity valued at more than £140 since 2001. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for the current financial year will be published in the usual way.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Disabled People

Dan Rogerson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what steps the House of Commons Commission has taken to apply the principles of Article 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in respect of making reasonable adjustments to enable a disabled person to hold office in the last five years. [307865]

Nick Harvey: The House provides considerable support for Members with disabilities to help them to carry out their duties. Support and advice are provided by the Department of Resources, the Department of Facilities and the Parliamentary ICT Service. This support includes medical appraisals and help from the Consultant Occupational Health Physician, the provision of a variety of equipment (i.e. specialised IT software and equipment, motorised wheelchairs etc.), accommodation adjustments, and funding for transport needs and additional staff help where necessary. A leaflet is in preparation setting out the help that is available to Members with disabilities after the next general election.

The Commission's duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 are duties owed as an employer rather than duties owed to holders of elected office.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Kajaki dam in Northern Helmand province to be operational. [308633]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The Kajaki dam is operational and producing around 33 MW of power, benefiting at least 200,000 people.

Armed Forces: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 801-04, on the future defence programme, (1) which training exercises will be cancelled; [309240]

(2) what aspects of Army training his Department plans to reduce. [309241]

Bill Rammell: Given our current commitments, we must ensure that our core activity is focused on preparing our soldiers for the Department's main effort, success on operations in Afghanistan. Combined with the pressures that the Defence budget has faced, this means prioritising our resources to these critical activities, and reductions in some non-operational specific training. Our training, and associated equipment fleets, are being managed to this effect.

We are working through detailed implementation. But no training for current deployments will be cut. An example where we could expect reductions, however, is in the levels of training provided for heavy armour, such as Challenger 2 tanks which have not been deployed in Afghanistan.

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307961]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information currently available for the Department, its agencies and trading funds is provided in the following table:

	MOD and agencies		*UKHO*		*Met Office*		*DSTL*		*DSG*	
	Total	*Percentage paid*	*Total*	*Percentage paid*	*Total*	*Percentage paid*	*Total*	*Percentage paid*	*Total*	*Percentage paid*
November 2008	390,354	72.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December 2008	415,608	85.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
January 2009	361,494	80.0	—	—	1,267	55.5	—	—	—	—
February 2009	459246	85.0	—	—	1,010	82.5	—	—	—	—
March 2009	466,246	90.7	740	94.7	1,271	86.2	—	—	—	—
April 2009	472,644	92.8	551	97.6	1,090	81.3	—	—	—	—
May 2009	445,844	98.4	572	98.1	922	77.5	—	—	—	—
June 2009	448,697	97.5	574	97.4	610	92.3	—	—	—	—
July 2009	431,323	97.7	800	98.5	729	93.0	3,592	72.5	—	—
August 2009	412,871	98.0	547	97.8	577	95.1	2,284	98.0	—	—
September 2009	398,351	98.0	491	94.9	638	95.9	2,234	88.5	6,286	76.4
October 2009	415,740	98.6	600	98.0	647	95.0	3,081	98.8	6,446	88.7
November 2009	420,291	98.4	577	95.0	594	96.8	2,621	98.6	7,047	92.5

Key:
UKHO: United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
DSTL: Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
DSG: Defence Support Group

The Government are committed to improving the payment culture in the UK in order to create a fair and stable business climate. Government Departments and their agencies should aim to pay all invoices not in dispute within 10 days or within the agreed contractual terms if otherwise specified.

The Ministry of Defence fully supports this policy.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games: Education

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she plans to take steps to provide educational materials to schools on the history of the Olympic Games. [308476]

Tessa Jowell: "Get Set" is the official London 2012 education programme for schools, colleges and local authority education providers across the UK. It is managed by The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The "Get Set" programme offers a wide range of opportunities for young people between 3 and 19 to connect with London 2012 and also for education providers across the UK to use "Get Set" materials. There are over 9,000 schools, colleges and other learning institutions registered.

The "Get Set" website:

www.london2012.com/getset

offers learning providers a range of resources such as films, activity ideas and games based around the Paralympic and Olympic values.

It is updated on a regular basis to provide fresh ideas and additional support materials. For example, teachers were provided with material to mark 1,000 days to go to London 2012 and resources will also be released to tie in with the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games beginning in February.

The resources available include information on the history of the Olympic/Paralympic movements which can be used on the web or downloaded as factsheets.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare Act 2006

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 279W, on the Animal Welfare Act 2006, what progress has been made on considering the consultation responses; and when he expects revised drafts to be published. [309329]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 6 January 2010]*: The codes of practice for the welfare of cats, dogs and horses were laid before Parliament on 8 December. If approved by Parliament, they will come into force on 6 April 2010.

A summary of the responses can be found on the DEFRA website and copies of all the responses have been placed in the House Library.

Animals: Codes of Practice

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the recently published codes of practice for the welfare of dogs and cats did not include guidance on breeding. [308187]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The main purpose of the cat and dog codes is to assist the courts in cases of poor welfare, brought under the Animal Welfare Act, in relation to cats or dogs. Another purpose is to provide owners of cats and dogs with guidance in how to meet the welfare needs of their animals, as required under the Act. Protecting the progeny of animals is not covered in the code.

The breeding of dogs has been considered by the Associate Parliamentary Group on Animal Welfare, which reported in the autumn. The report from Sir Patrick Bateson on dog breeding will be published in January. The recommendations from these two inquiries will need careful consideration and to issue a code of practice on breeding at this juncture might preempt the conclusions we draw from this valuable work.

Campaign for the Farmed Environment

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Country Landowners Association and the National Farmers Union on *(a)* the Campaign for the Farmed Environment sponsored by these bodies and *(b)* progress towards the targets set by that campaign for (i) England, (ii) Lancashire and (iii) Cumbria. [308541]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have met with the leaders of both organisations a number of times over recent months to discuss how best to recapture the environmental benefits of set-aside through the development of the Campaign for the Farmed Environment, as have my ministerial colleagues and our officials. The Memorandum of Understanding which has been signed by all the campaign partners, including DEFRA, CLA and NFU, and the nearly £3 million of funding which the Department has earmarked for the campaign, demonstrates the commitment of all the partners to its success.

The campaign's targets are for England and are not county-specific. It is currently too early to assess the impact of the campaign on the ground, following its official launch on 5 November 2009, but I have just received an interim report from the campaign's industry partners reporting on progress to date with setting up the campaign. DEFRA has also recently sent out a baseline sample survey of farmers' existing voluntary actions, against which future annual surveys will establish the progress of the campaign. Our intention is that the results of the first of these surveys will be published in summer 2010.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities levy an annual charge for wheeled refuse containers; what charge was set by each such authority in 2009-10; and how much each such authority raised in such charges in the most recent financial year. [309433]

Dan Norris: DEFRA and the Waste and Resources Action Programme do not hold this information.

Food: Climate Change

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps in consultation with farmers and supermarkets to undertake research into the effects of climate change on the preservation of foodstuffs grown in an extended growing season. [308885]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have not funded research to look specifically at the impacts of climate change on storage of food products. However, we have funded research to improve storage of products to extend storage time, maintain quality in storage and therefore reduce losses. This has been achieved through improvements in storage technology and crop management.

We have also commissioned research to develop storage technologies that are more sustainable. The knowledge and improved technologies delivered provide greater resilience to climate change because they provide options for adaptation. A non-exhaustive list of relevant research projects is shown in the following table.

Further information on these projects is available from the DEFRA website at:

http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Location=None&Module=FilterSearchNewLook&Completed=Q

Code	*Title*	*Start*	*End*	*Cost (£)*
FO0308	Development of diffuse browning disorder in relation to physiological and biochemical changes in apple fruit during development and storage	April 2007	March 2009	201,094
LK09105	A novel strategy for reducing wastage in potato storage by improved control of tuber dormancy	October 2007	March 2008	42,468

Code	*Title*	*Start*	*End*	*Cost (£)*
LK0985	Defining and managing risks to safety and quality during food and feed grain storage	July 2006	July 2011	648,020
LK0967	Biopesticides for the control of storage insect pests	April 2005	September 2009	393,114
AR0603	Interaction of biology and behaviour of storage insects with environmental conditions in bulk grain	April 2002	March 2006	655,327
AR0604	Safe storage of grain by preventing and controlling the development of mite pests	April 2002	March 2006	614,325
HH2602SFV	Molecular and biochemical characters of post harvest quality in brassicas	January 2002	December 2005	539,903
LK0929	Improving the detection and monitoring of storage beetle pests by development of a multi-species lure	October 2002	September 2005	221,329
HH2603STF	The potential for manipulating the orchard microflora to control storage rot fungi	April 2001	March 2005	208,399
HH2604STF	Storage rots in plums and cherries	September 2001	August 2004	154,852
HH2606STF	Identify the mechanisms of a naturally-occurring, heritable trait for reduced ethylene production in apple fruits	April 2001	March 2004	494,252
LK0919	Control of potato storage diseases by laser treatment	October 2001	September 2004	116,015
HH2118STF	Integrated control of new storage rot problems in apples and pears	April 1998	March 2001	153,781
HH2120TTF	Expanding the potential of the UK stone fruit industry by the use of modern storage technology	April 1998	March 2001	246,847
HH2114STF	Investigation into improving storage of horticultural produce by control of ethylene metabolism	October 1997	September 2000	306,013

Hunting Act 2004

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many convictions there have been under the Hunting Act 2004. [308234]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 6 January 2010]*: The following table shows the number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences under the Hunting Act 2004 from 2005-07 (latest available).

Data for 2008 is planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under the Hunting Act 2004[1], England and Wales, 2005-07[2, 3]

	Number
2005	2
2006	5
2007	48

[1] Came into force on 18 February 2005.

[2] The court proceedings statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice. (Ref: 591-09)

Sewers: Private Sector

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to implement a new Mandatory Build Standard for the transfer of private sewers and drains to water company ownership; and if he will make a statement. [308077]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There is little point transferring existing private sewers if a new stock of private sewers is allowed to grow over time to replace it. Therefore, provision is contained in the Flood and Water Management Bill, currently before Parliament, for new sewers connecting to the public system to be built to a mandatory standard and then adopted by water and sewerage companies. DEFRA officials are working with stakeholders on the preparation of a mandatory build standard for consultation.

Subject to the successful passage of the Bill, I anticipate that the standards should be published in advance of the transfer of existing private sewers and lateral drains.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Leader of the House what timetable has been set for the cessation of the communications allowance. [308809]

Barbara Keeley: No claims for expenditure incurred on or after 1 January 2010 will be paid from Communications Expenditure, with the exception of expenditure on advertisements for surgeries, including posters (subject to restrictions set out as follows) and maintenance of equipment funded from Communications Expenditure where there are contractual commitments.

Advertisements for surgeries, where the expenditure is incurred on or after 1 January 2010 and is funded by Communications Expenditure, must not include party colours or logos and slogans, must not include extraneous material, must be proportionate in nature, and may not include advertisements in national media or leaflets or flyers; references to other elected officials must be approved in advance by the Department of Resources.

No materials or resources, other than websites and office equipment, purchased from Communications Expenditure before 1 January 2010 may be used on or after that date unless the Member first returns the full cost of those resources to the House.

Where Communications Expenditure is used to fund an ongoing cost or item which occurs across both the restricted and unrestricted period, only the relevant fraction of the costs can be paid for out of Communications Expenditure, unless the item concerned is (i) one of the items excepted in the first paragraph above or (ii) the Member entered into an unconditional obligation to pay for the item using Communications Expenditure on or before 23 November 2009 and the item is not used on or after 1 January 2010.

The Department of Resources issued detailed guidance on 16 December 2009. Members who have any queries about their own Communications Expenditure during the restricted period should seek advice from the Department.

The Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has today published a draft allowances scheme for consultation under section 5 of the Parliamentary Standards Act 2009.

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information: Procurement

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) what criteria are used to assess a potential supplier to the Central Office of Information for inclusion on the list of approved suppliers; [307857]

(2) who the members are of the panel which approves suppliers to the Central Office of Information; [307858]

(3) what the names are of the approved suppliers to the Central Office of Information. [307859]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 6 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions on the COI Suppliers (307857/8/9).

Central Office of Information (COI) has 29 lists of approved suppliers referred to in the Public Contract Regulations 2006 as framework agreements. As a public sector body, COI has to comply with the requirements outlined in the Regulations when setting up framework agreements. The list of framework agreements and the suppliers that sit on each can be found on the COI website at

http://coi.gov.uk/suppliers.php?page=31

The requirements and deliverables expected of suppliers on each framework agreement differs, however suppliers are assessed to ensure that they are capable of providing the services that the framework agreement is set-up to deliver and to ensure that value for money is achieved through quality of the service, their technical ability and price.

The members of the panel that carry out the assessment of suppliers onto each framework agreement differs for each but is typically made up of at least two technical experts and one procurement expert. The final list of suppliers is signed off by the Director of the area and the Commercial Director.

Government Departments: Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions there have been in respect of technical attacks through the internet on the computer systems of Government departments in each of the last three years. [307943]

Claire Ward: I have been asked to reply.

Statistical data held by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database record the number of defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales on a persons basis.

These data do not include information on the circumstances of an offence and it is therefore not possible to separately identify offences under the Computer Misuse Act 1990 that have resulted from unauthorised access to computer systems of Government Departments.

Non-departmental Public Bodies

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office when she expects the report of the latest review of non-departmental Government bodies to be published. [309409]

Angela E. Smith: Cabinet Office produces an annual report on the size and spend of the non-departmental public body sector entitled "Public Bodies". Cabinet Office aims to publish "Public Bodies 2009" shortly.

NORTHERN IRELAND

AccessNI

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* basic, *(b)* standard and *(c)* enhanced applications have been processed by AccessNI in each month since April 2008; and what percentage of applications in each category was completed within the performance target time. [309171]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to provide information for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 in the manner requested. During this period AccessNI processed 115,268 applications. It was unable to meet its service standards between May and December 2008, but did meet them between January and March 2009. Information for the period 1 April to 31 October 2009 is set out in the following table.

1 April to 31 October 2009

Month	Number of basic processed	Percentage within target[1]	Number of standard processed	Percentage within target	Number of enhanced processed	Percentage within target
April	1,092	86.91	281	97.22	10,687	93.14
May	1,310	97.58	386	99.47	8,181	96.9
June	1,691	97.20	1,014	98.99	11,052	94.28
July	1,611	97.63	966	97.12	10,529	94.63
August	1,340	96.21	460	98.95	8,706	96.3

1 April to 31 October 2009

Month	*Number of basic processed*	*Percentage within target*[1]	*Number of standard processed*	*Percentage within target*	*Number of enhanced processed*	*Percentage within target*
September	1,822	99.19	1,184	99.41	10,538	96.71
October	1,573	98.73	1,497	98.75	13,434	96.43
Totals	10,439		5,788		73,127	

[1] Basic target is 90 per cent. in two weeks
[2] Standard target is 90 per cent. in three weeks
[3] Enhanced target is 90 per cent. in four weeks

Clergy: Misconduct

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Irish government, *(b)* the Roman Catholic Bishop's Conference of Ireland and Primate of Ireland and *(c)* the Papal Nuncio on the implications of the report of the Irish Commission of Inquiry into sex abuse and related misconduct by members of the clergy and religious orders for clergy and members of religious orders transferred to dioceses or religious houses in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [308061]

Paul Goggins: Northern Ireland Office Ministers have had no discussions on these matters, nor any requests to discuss them, with any of the parties specified.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307796]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 21W, which considered primary legislation to include both Westminster Acts of Parliament and, for Northern Ireland, Orders in Council which would elsewhere be classified as secondary legislation. For the purposes of the current question I am therefore treating secondary legislation for Northern Ireland to cover statutory instruments excluding orders in Council.

Excluding agencies and non-departmental public bodies, the Northern Ireland Office has made four statutory rules which have made or repealed offences since 1 May 2008.

The Representation of the People (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2008; the Northern Ireland Assembly (Elections) (Amendment) Order 2009; and the European Parliamentary Elections (Northern Ireland) (Amendment) Order 2009 updated Northern Ireland electoral procedures. This brought them in line with changes made to UK electoral law by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and included offences relating to voting and electoral registration procedures.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 (Regulation of Loans etc: Northern Ireland) Order 2008 also provides for an offence of disclosing information contained in transaction reports in circumstances other than those set out in the order.

TRANSPORT

Cycling

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of (i) children and (ii) adults in (A) Stroud district, (B) Gloucestershire and (C) England who cycle regularly. [309140]

Mr. Khan: Estimates from the National Travel Survey suggest that, across England as a whole, 31 per cent. of children and 10 per cent. of adults regularly cycled (i.e. at least one bicycle trip per week) between 2006 and 2008.

Equivalent statistics for Gloucestershire and the Stroud district are not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, for urban areas with resident populations of between 25,000 and 50,000 (such as the town of Stroud), the equivalent estimates were 30 per cent. for children and 10 per cent. for adults.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) alcohol and (ii) entertainment in the last 12 months. [305531]

Chris Mole: Generally, the Department for Transport (DFT) operates a no alcohol policy. In exceptional cases, where the Department is holding a special event or staff are attending a venue away from their normal office and working long hours necessitating an evening meal, some limited provision of alcoholic drinks at public expense may be permitted at the discretion of a senior civil servant. Spend incurred in such situations is not centrally recorded and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, The Driving Standards Agency, Government Car and Despatch Agency, Highways Agency, Maritime and Coastguard Agency and the Vehicle Certification Agency recorded zero expenditure on alcohol.

Entertainment costs are not recorded as a specific cost category within the Department for Transport's accounting systems. To identify such expenditure would incur disproportionate costs. However, the Government Car and Despatch Agency and Highways Agency have both recorded zero expenditure on entertainment.

Departmental Pay

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what pay band his Department's chief information officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307558]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not employ a full-time chief information officer. The role is split between the Director General and Director responsible, alongside wider policy responsibilities, for issues including information and knowledge management, data security, information and communication technology and knowledge management, in which they are supported by professional staff in the central Department and its agencies. There is no centrally managed budget for CIO activity. The budget for 2009-10 for the Information Management Directorate for ICT in the central Department was £13.5 million.

Driving Under Influence: Drugs

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of effectiveness of the recent advertisements on the dangers of drug driving. [309537]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport usually assesses the effectiveness of its advertising in three ways:

> The effect on individuals' awareness, motivation and claimed behaviours, which we measure through quantitative and qualitative research.
>
> Progress against indicators such as in the case of our THINK! road safety campaign, the number of people killed or seriously injured.
>
> How effectively it buys media space. Analysis by independent media auditors benchmarks the Government's performance against private sector advertisers. Collectively, the Government are an efficient purchaser of media.

The THINK! Drug Drive advertising campaign ran from 17 August to 13 September 2009. The Department has not yet received or assessed all of the data listed above. However, research, including pre-campaign and post-campaign tracking surveys and website statistics, provides early indicators that the campaign has performed well against its core objectives including raising awareness of the risks of drug-driving.

East Coast Railway Line

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department intends to make an assessment of the likely effect on public finances of retaining the East Coast Main Line in the public sector. [309323]

Chris Mole: When rail franchises are let, the Department for Transport routinely prepares a "shadow bid" to provide a detailed estimate of the likely costs and revenues of the new franchise. In the case of the next Inter City East Coast franchise, this evaluation will be based on the costs and revenues of the current public sector train operator.

Local Government: Snow and Ice

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Local Government Association and *(b)* local authorities on the contingency plans of local authorities in respect of extreme weather conditions. [309538]

Mr. Khan: The most recent discussions I have held with the Local Government Association on local authorities' contingency plans in respect of extreme weather conditions were on 4 January 2010. Department for Transport officials are also in regular contact and discussion with the Local Government Association on these matters.

Lorries: Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many miles heavy goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes travelled on dual carriageways in England in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what information his Department holds on the equivalent figures for *(a)* Scotland; *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland. [308560]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* The estimated miles travelled by heavy goods vehicles on dual carriageways in England, Wales and Scotland in 2008 is shown in the following table.

Road network information for dual carriageways is not available for Northern Ireland.

Heavy goods vehicles

	Billion vehicle miles
England	3.5
Scotland	0.4
Wales	0.2
Great Britain	4.1
Northern Ireland	Not available

Source:
National Road Traffic Survey (2008).

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how many miles UK and foreign registered heavy goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes travelled on *(a)* motorways and *(b)* trunk roads in England in the last year for which figures are available; and what information his Department holds on the equivalent figures for (i) Scotland, (ii) Wales and (iii) Northern Ireland; [308561]

(2) how many miles UK and foreign registered heavy goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes travelled on all roads in England in the last year for which figures are available; and what information his Department holds on the equivalent figures for *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland. [308562]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* The Department for Transport does not hold figures on traffic or the country of vehicle registration for Northern Ireland, but the estimated miles travelled by UK and foreign registered heavy goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes on all roads in England, Scotland and Wales is shown in the following table.

HGV traffic on all roads by registration and region, 2008

Billion vehicle miles

	Registered heavy goods vehicles		
	UK	*Foreign*	*Total*
England	4.78	0.56	15.3
Scotland	1.68	0.03	1.7
Wales	0.77	0.03	0.8

Sources:
Traffic: National Road Traffic Survey.
Registration: Vehicle Excise Duty Evasion Survey (June 2008).

Due to small sample sizes, the estimates of miles driven in England, Scotland and Wales will be subject to a margin of uncertainty, and the sample size is too small to provide reliable estimates of the miles travelled by road class.

Northern Rail: Rolling Stock

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had on the future of Northern Rail's Pacer (Class 142) rolling stock. [309498]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has been in recent discussion with Northern Rail regarding their proposals for delivering additional capacity through the High Level Output Specification (HLOS). These discussions which are currently ongoing have included the totality of their rolling stock fleet including class 142s.

The recently announced electrification programme in the North West will also allow some class 142 Pacer vehicles that operate on these lines to be replaced with electric trains.

In addition, the Department meets with each of the Rolling Stock Leasing Companies (ROSCOs) on a regular basis to discuss their respective portfolio of rolling stock vehicles, which includes class 142 Pacer vehicles.

Railways: Franchises

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the value for money of operating rail passenger services in the public sector after each passenger franchise expires. [309324]

Chris Mole: Under current legislation, the Secretary of State has the ability to step in to secure continuity of train service provision only if a train operator becomes unable to meet the terms of its franchise agreement. However, this can only be a temporary arrangement as there is no provision for train services to be permanently retained in the public sector without a change to legislation.

Therefore the Department for Transport has made no assessment of the value for money of operating rail passenger services in the public sector on a permanent basis after each passenger franchise expires.

Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many of the 1,300 extra carriages referred to in the Government's Rail White Paper published in July 2007 are in operation on the network; and on which lines they are operating. [300347]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 23 November 2009]:* A total of 380 new and additional vehicles are already either in service or are being prepared for service subject to the train operator finalising service plans.

This includes 232 new vehicles currently in operation with the following train operators:

TOC	*Class*	*Type*	*Number of vehicles*
Southern Railway	377	EMU	48
London Midland	350/2	EMU	148
Southern Railway	377	EMU	36

311 further new vehicles have been ordered and manufacturers are currently progressing their construction.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport who will decide whether the super express trains manufactured by Hitachi will have provision for *(a)* an operational safety role for a guard or conductor and *(b)* a restaurant buffet car. [309325]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport has specified all Super Express Trains to be capable of operating either with a guard or in driver-only operation. This reflects the flexibility of train deployment on different route types, including long distance and commuter. As today, the mode of operation of services on specific routes will be managed by the train operating company.

Super Express Trains will offer suitable equipment to deliver on-train catering, ranging from at-seat trolley to full restaurant buffet car service. The catering provision will vary according to the service being operated and, as today, will be managed by the train operating company.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what complaints relating to council tax collection the Local Government Ombudsman has adjudicated in the last 36 months. [308258]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Councillors: Codes of Practice

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the written ministerial statement of 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 56WS, on judicial declarations (freemasonry), whether he plans to amend the Code of Conduct for Councillors in respect of its declaration requirements. [308800]

Ms Rosie Winterton: While the Model Code of Conduct for councillors contains no specific provision on freemasonry, it does require members to include in their register of interests their membership of any charitable bodies; freemasons consider themselves such a body.

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on *(a)* print, *(b)* online, *(c)* television and *(d)* radio advertising in each of the last five years; how much has been spent on advertising in 2009-10 to date; and what percentage of advertising expenditure in each year was managed by the Central Office of Information. [309900]

Barbara Follett: Information on the Department for Communities and Local Government expenditure on advertising is published every year in its Annual Report. Since 2008-09 this information has been published in a format which allows it to be broken down by the type of media used. However, the information is not available for previous years in this format.

For the financial year 2008-09 I refer the hon. Member to the information provided on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/1298507.pdf

For previous years I refer the hon. Member to the appropriate departmental Annual Report, available in the House Library.

The Department will publish a breakdown of advertising expenditure in 2009-10 at the time of its next Annual Report.

The Department does not hold data on the proportion of its advertising expenditure managed by the Central Office of Information.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308822]

Barbara Follett: The Department does not hold this information centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Planning Inspectorate does not hold this information centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fire Service College does not hold this information centrally and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre can confirm that have not had any expenditure on cancelled conferences.

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance-related payment was in cash terms for a senior civil servant in his Department in each of the last five years. [308246]

Barbara Follett: The following table shows the average and highest payments of non-consolidated variable payments awarded by CLG to the senior civil service over the last five financial years.

£

	Average amount paid	*Highest amount paid*
2009-10	7,365	12,500
2008-09	8,396	20,500
2007-08	6,597	16,270
2006-07	6,868	12,500
2005-06	4,954	9,500

Departmental Responsibilities

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what programmes and projects for which his Department is responsible have been cancelled in the last 12 months; and in respect of how many such programmes and projects funding has been reduced. [308424]

Barbara Follett: The Department's spending plans for 2009-10 were set out in the main estimates published on 18 June 2009 (HC 514) and the associated explanatory memorandum for the Communities and Local Government Select Committee published at:

http://www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmcomloc/memo/mainestimate/ucm01.pdf

Changes to those plans were set out in the winter supplementary estimates published on 24 November 2009 (HC 24), with further detail set out in the explanatory memorandum to the Select Committee, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Further changes will be published in the forthcoming spring supplementary estimates in February.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls were received to each number in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305209]

Barbara Follett: Communities and Local Government does not operate or sponsor telephone contact lines with the relevant prefixes. The departmental contact number is an 030 number which is reserved for public services and calls to this service are charged at national rate. No revenue is raised through this service.

Energy Performance Certificates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1193W, on energy performance certificates, if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report commissioned from AECOM. [308740]

John Healey: The full evaluation of the EPBD is expected to be completed in mid-2010 when copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's most recent estimate is of the effect on the sale price of homes to which energy efficiency improvements have been made of the requirement to produce an energy performance certificate. [309401]

John Healey: No such estimate has been made.

However, the Department for Communities and Local Government is working with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and other stakeholders on a project to explore the extent to which energy performance is reflected in the value of a property and the effect on the market price of homes as a result of the installation of energy efficiency and renewable heat and energy technologies.

Government Office for London: Location

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made towards the relocation of the Government office for London; whether an alternative location has been identified; and whether he expects relocation to take place before the lease at Riverwalk House expires in 2011. [309492]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A relocation project is in progress, being run jointly by the Government office for London and the Communities and Local Government Estates Directorate, in line with the Government Estates Transformation Programme.

The project has identified Eland House, currently part of the Communities and Local Government Estate, as the most suitable location. The relocation project has an anticipated completion date of 31 December 2010, well in advance of the expiry of the lease on Riverwalk House.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the level of compliance of *(a)* estate agents and *(b)* home-sellers with requirements relating to home information packs. [308256]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 902-03W, to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson).

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1211W, on home information packs, (1) whether rules on misleading omissions apply to property information questionnaires constituting a marketing communication between a home seller and a home buyer; [308603]

(2) whether estate agents are liable for misleading omissions made by a home seller producing a property information questionnaire; and what obligations estate agents have to check the *(a)* accuracy and *(b)* truthfulness of property information questionnaires. [308604]

John Healey: Section 155 of the Housing Act 2004 provides that the person responsible for marketing is under a duty to have a Home Information Pack (HIP) in his possession which complies with the Home Information Pack (No. 2) Regulations 2007. Where the person responsible for marketing is an estate agent, Regulation 36 provides that he cannot be held in breach where a document (other than the Index and Sale Statement) fails to comply with the Regulations and the agent believed on reasonable grounds that it did comply.

Estate agents are under a duty under the Home Information Pack (No. 2) Regulations 2007 to ensure that the HIP includes a completed Property Information Questionnaire (PIQ) but are not under a duty to ensure that the answers given by the seller are accurate and truthful. An estate agent could be in breach of the Consumer Protection Regulations (CPRs) if he failed to act on information in the PIQ which he knew to be inaccurate or untruthful, because they are required by the CPRs to act in accordance with honest market practice and good faith.

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals were found guilty of breaching section 19(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 from its commencement to its repeal. [308733]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not have information about the number of local authority members who have not complied with section 19(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the monetary value is of the area-based grant to be allocated in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and what criteria are used to allocate that grant to local authorities. [307833]

Barbara Follett: The monetary value of area based grant (ABG) for 2010-11 is £5,028,317,187. The allocation for 2011-12 has yet to be announced. Decisions on future public spending plans will be a matter for the next spending review.

The criteria used to allocate departmental contributions to ABG are decided by the respective Departments, and will reflect factors such as relative need for the services covered by each contribution to the Grant. For example, the distribution of money for schools intervention will take account of the number of maintained schools in the area.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the central Government grant per capita was to each local authority, including police and fire authorities in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [308654]

Barbara Follett: I have placed in the Library of the House tables showing central Government grant per capita by local authority for 2008-09 and 2009-10. However, it should be noted that figures between the two years are not directly comparable because the 2008-09 figures are based on outturn information whereas those for 2009-10 are based on budget information. It should also be borne in mind that local authorities may not have complete information about all central Government grants at the time they completed the budget returns.

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant, redistributed non-domestic rates and police grant), Greater London authority grant, specific grants inside

Aggregate External Finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services and Area Based Grant (ABG).

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Mid-year 2008 population estimates are used to calculate per capita information. 2009 figures are not yet available. For National Parks mid-year 2007 estimates are used because they are the most recent available.

Local Government Finance: Lancashire

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Government provided to *(a)* Lancashire county council and *(b)* Preston city council in real terms in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [308652]

Barbara Follett: The following table shows central Government funding provided to Lancashire county council and Preston city council in real terms at 2008-09 prices. Figures between the two years are not directly comparable because those for 1997-98 are based on outturn information whereas those for 2009-10 are based on budget information. In addition, local authorities may not have had complete information about all central Government grants at the time of completing the budget returns.

£ million

	1997-98	*2009-10*
Lancashire	955.4	1,210.0
Preston	16.9	21.9

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns for 1997-98 and 2009-10.

The definition of central Government grant used here is the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant, redistributed non-domestic rates and police grant) and specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services. In 2009-10 figures include area-based grant (ABG).

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Local Government: Accountability

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received on accountability mechanisms for local authority *(a)* strategic partnerships, *(b)* safeguarding boards and *(c)* partnership bodies. [306352]

Barbara Follett: Chapter 1 of the Strengthening Local Democracy consultation sought views on the extension of scrutiny powers of Local Area Agreement partners and whether these should be made more explicit in relation to the wider delivery of local public services in an area. The consultation also asked whether the structure of local partnerships should be reviewed in order to identify unhelpful overlap and duplication and whether these were particular issues on which such a review should focus. Over 1,400 responses were received to this consultation and I will be publishing the formal response to it in due course.

In addition, on 23 December, I received the formal shortlist of 199 proposals from the Local Government Association in its role as the Selector under the provisions of the Sustainable Communities Act, and a number of these make suggestions about accountability mechanisms for local authorities and other bodies.

Local Government: Contracts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has plans to update the publication Guidance on contracting for Services in the light of the Human Rights Act 1998, to take account of recent judgments relating to the scope of that Act. [308266]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Improvement and Development Agency for local government (IdeA) have commissioned the British Institute of Human Rights to carry out a project looking at the relevance of a human rights approach to local government and service delivery. We will consider the need for any revised guidance in light of the outcome of this project.

Local Government: Elections

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Standards Board for England has issued on whether local authority (i) buildings and (ii) equipment provided for councillors to carry out their representative role may be used for the production of political campaigning literature. [308638]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As made clear in the statutory Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity issued by my Department, section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986 provides that council resources should never be used for purely political purposes.

Standards for England have published guidance on the use of local authority resource for political campaigning, both in their guide to the local authority members' code of conduct and in their 'Case Review' for 2007. Both publications are available from Standards for England's website at:

www.standardsforengland.gov.uk

Local Government: Insurance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an impact assessment was undertaken in respect of proposals to enable local authorities to set up mutual insurance schemes in the Economic Development, Local Democracy and Construction Bill; and what assessment has been made of the level of compliance of those proposals with competition rules. [309005]

Ms Rosie Winterton: An impact assessment reporting on the impact of providing powers for local authorities to enter into mutual insurance arrangements was published on 13 October 2009. This is accessible at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/bestvalueauthorityia

Companies through which authorities are required to operate when exercising the power to form and participate in mutual insurance bodies, as set out in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, will be required to comply with competition law.

Local Government: Public Consultation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse was of the redress review; and which of its recommendations have been implemented. [308589]

Barbara Follett: In addition to staff time, the Department for Communities and Local Government spent £113,781 on the redress review.

The Department accepted the recommendation to run a series of pilots for local authorities and partnerships to test and develop the Practitioner's Toolkit produced by the review when it was presented with the review in June 2009. Nine local authorities are piloting the toolkit, and further information is available on our website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/communityempowerment/communitiesincontrol/redressreview/

One of these pilots is looking at how best partners could come together to deliver better services and remedies for people recently made redundant. The pilots also include elements as the sharing of learning at regional events, all of which were also recommendations of the review.

The Government will be making a formal response to the review shortly.

Local Government: Publicity

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding his Department has given to the Local Government Information Unit to conduct research in relation to the revised draft Code on Local Authority Publicity. [309002]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has given no funding to the Local Government Information Unit to conduct research in relation to any revised draft of the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity.

Mortgages

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made an assessment of the variation between mortgage rates offered to homebuyers who wish to purchase a new-build home and those who wish to buy homes which have previously been owned and occupied. [307829]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government is working closely with HMT, FSA and all those involved in the sale of new homes to support a sustainable and transparent mortgage market.

According to the CML Regulated Mortgage Survey, the average initial mortgage rate on new build was 4.63 per cent. in October 2009, compared to 4.42 per cent. on other properties.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average business rate bill was in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms based on 2009 prices in each year since 1997-98. [307845]

Barbara Follett: The average non-domestic rates bill (in £s) in England in each year since 1997-98, including the estimated average figures for 2009-10, both in cash and in real terms based on 2009 prices, is shown in the following table.

Average non-domestic rates bill England

£

	Cash	*Real terms*
1997-98	6,796	9,196
1998-99	7,016	9,126
1999-00	6,998	8,959
2000-01	8,264	10,275
2001-02	8,714	10,647
2002-03	9,071	10,919
2003-04	9,137	10,665
2004-05	9,301	10,593
2005-06	9,997	11,035
2006-07	10,275	11,059
2007-08	10,330	10,637
2008-09	11,274	11,142
2009-10 (estimated)	12,145	12,145

The data are taken from National non-domestic rates (NNDR) returns submitted by all billing authorities in England. Figures for 2009-10 are estimates.

Average business rate is calculated by dividing the net rate yield from local authority's lists by the number of hereditaments on the local list as at 31 December of the previous year.

Comparisons between years may not be valid as the rateable values for individual properties, and hence the actual rates bills, vary greatly. In addition, the figures for 1998-99 to 2000-01 are affected by transfers of properties from the central list to local ones; transfers of crown properties to local lists and adjustments made to the multiplier at the time of the 2000 revaluation. Changes in the figures for the years around 2005-06 are also affected by adjustments made to the multiplier at the time of the 2005 revaluation.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 884W, on non-domestic rates: valuation, if he will place in the Library a table showing the rateable values for *(a)* all properties, *(b)* small properties and *(c)* large properties in each local authority area according to the (i) 2005 Ratings List and (ii) draft 2010 Ratings List. [309530]

Barbara Follett: A table showing the precise rateable values could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ordnance Survey: Photography

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what aerial photographs are contained in the Ordnance Survey Mastermap Address Layer 2 product; and to what scale such photographs are produced. [308259]

Mr. Ian Austin: There are no aerial photographs within OS MasterMap® Address Layer 2.

Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on the number of statutory notices placed by local authorities in local newspapers; and what guidance his Department has provided to local authorities on whether their job advertisements should be published in local newspapers. [309001]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have no policy about the number of statutory notices which local authorities may place in local newspapers.

The Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity, to which local authorities must have regard in coming to any decision on publicity, including their job advertisements, states that the media chosen for job vacancies should be in keeping with the objective of maintaining the politically independent status of local authority staff.

Rates and Rating

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* small and *(b)* large properties in each local authority area there are on the (i) 2005 and (ii) 2010 Ratings List. [309531]

Barbara Follett: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the number of small and large hereditaments in England broken down by billing authority on the 2005 and the draft 2010 Rating Lists as at 2 November 2009. A hereditament is classified as small in the 2005 Rating Lists if it has a rateable value of less than £21,500 in London or £15,000 elsewhere. A hereditament is classified as small in the draft 2010 Rating Lists if it has a rateable value of less than £25,500 in London or £18,000 elsewhere. These data are consistent with the statistical release titled: "Non-domestic rateable values: 2010 Local Rating Lists—England and Wales", published on 18 December 2009. A copy of this statistical release is available at the following:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/statistical_releases/VOA_Statistics_Release_Final.pdf

The number of hereditaments has been rounded to the nearest 10.

Social Rented Housing: Waiting Lists

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were on local authority waiting lists for social housing in England in April 2009. [308808]

Mr. Ian Austin: Figures on the number of households registered on social housing waiting lists were published on 26 November in the Statistical Release, "Local Authority Housing Statistics, England: 2008-09". This release can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/lahousing200809

Tenant Services Authority

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role the Tenant Services Authority will have in *(a)* determining policy on rent controls, *(b)* inspecting local authorities and *(c)* the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Area Assessment regime. [309033]

John Healey: Policy on rent controls is a matter for Government.

Our intention is that the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) should have the role of deciding when an inspection of a local authority's landlord services is needed, and that the TSA should then commission the Audit Commission to carry out such an inspection. This policy was set out in our consultation document "The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (Registration of Local Authorities) Order 2009", published in August 2009, and confirmed in our response to that consultation, which we published in November 2009.

The TSA will participate with the Comprehensive Area Assessment regime alongside the other participating public service inspectorates.

Tenant Services Authority: Manpower

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff the Tenant Services Authority employs in its regulation team. [309824]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 514W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to pages 80 and 81 of his Department's Resource Accounts 2008-09, for what reasons the UK Border Agency made overpayments of £9.6 million in respect of accommodation and direct support to asylum seekers whose eligibility for the support had ceased. [309309]

Mr. Woolas: The reasons for the overpayment of £9.6 million were set out in the notes to the Home Office Resource Accounts.

The notes also set out the actions taken by UK Border Agency to improve controls, these actions have been subject to continual review during the current financial year to ensure they have been effective.

Asylum: Housing

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were supported in accommodation in each parliamentary constituency in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales on the latest date for which figures are available. [309169]

Mr. Woolas: A table showing asylum seekers supported in accommodation, by UK Government office region and parliamentary constituency, as at the end of September 2009, was made available in the Commons Library on 26 November 2009 as part of the quarterly publications.

Information on immigration and asylum are published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics and the latest statistics for Q3 2009 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate web-site at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.

Control Orders

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who have been but are no longer subject to a control order are resident in the UK. [308402]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* As of 10 December 2009, the last date covered by the most recent written ministerial statement on control orders, 33 individuals had previously been but were no longer subject to a control order.

The Government are not willing to comment on the residential status of individuals who may or may not be of current interest to the intelligence agencies and the police beyond the information that has already appeared in the public domain in ministerial statements and answers to both Houses, and in open court judgments on control orders.

Counter-terrorism

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* objectives and *(b)* terms of reference are of the Association of Chief Police Officers' Prevent Channel project for which his Department has provided funding. [308548]

Mr. Hanson: The Channel Project provides a mechanism for ensuring that individuals identified as vulnerable to violent extremism are referred to and assessed by a multi-agency panel. The panel decides on the most appropriate action or intervention required to reduce this vulnerability. It therefore has a key role to play in driving delivery of Objective three of the Prevent Strategy: "Supporting vulnerable individuals who are being targeted and recruited to the cause of violent extremism".

The Association of Chief Police Officers is responsible for national delivery of Channel, which is currently operating across 12 police forces.

Crime: Computers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* investigations, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions were made for offences related to phishing attacks in each of the last three years; [306540]

(2) how many *(a)* investigations, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions were made for offences related to spamming in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [306541]

(3) how many *(a)* investigations, *(b)* prosecutions and *(c)* convictions there were for offences involving the deceptive installation of adware on to computer systems in each of the last three years. [306545]

Alan Johnson: Information on the number of investigations undertaken by the police is not collected centrally. The Home Office do collect data on the number of offences that are recorded by the police.

Phishing attacks, spamming and deceptive installation of adware are general terms. Specific offences, as defined in law, would be classified under the appropriate section of Computer Misuse Act 1990 dependent upon the circumstances of the individual offences. Such offences would then be recorded under Home Office classification 53B 'Preserved other fraud and repealed fraud offences (Pre Fraud Act 2006)'. Offences recorded under individual sections of the Computer Misuse Act cannot be separately identified from the other offences recorded within this offence classification.

Prosecutions and convictions data are collected by the Ministry of Justice and are also related to offences as defined by legislation.

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies has to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies has recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [309293]

Mr. Woolas: The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 has provided a series of new sanctions for employers who employ illegal migrant workers. This includes a system of civil penalties, under which an employer can be fined up to £10,000 per person he/she is found to be employing illegally.

Additionally, Bulgarian and Romanian nationals who work illegally commit a criminal offence and may be served with a fixed penalty fine of £1,000 under criminal law.

Part II of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 enables the Secretary of State to impose a £2,000 fixed charge on any air or sea carrier for each non-European Economic Area passenger they bring to the UK who fails to produce, on request, a valid travel document satisfactorily establishing their identity and nationality and, if required, a valid visa.

The Department can also impose a civil penalty on those responsible for carrying clandestine entrants, concealed in a vehicle. The maximum penalty which can be imposed upon the owner/hirer of such a vehicle is £2,000 per clandestine and upon the driver £2,000 per clandestine, the aggregated maximum per clandestine (applied where more than one person is responsible) is £4,000.

The UK Borders Act 2007 enables the Secretary of State to make regulations requiring foreign nationals who are subject to immigration control apply for an Identity Card for Foreign Nationals. Failure to comply with such a requirement may result in the imposition of a sanction, which may include a civil financial penalty up to a maximum of £1,000.

The value of penalties recovered is set out in the table.

	£000
2008-09	8,512
2007-08	6,844
2006-07	5,787
2005-06	5,932
2004-05	5,872
2003-04	6,843
2002-03	5,279
2001-02	6,783
2000-01	8,892
1999-2000	9,370

The police forces in England and Wales have the power to issue fixed penalty notices as a sanction against a specified list of offences, mainly related to public order (Penalty Notices for Disorder) and motoring.

For the Department's agencies, no penalties are levied.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what pay band his Department's chief information officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307563]

Mr. Woolas: The chief information officer of the Home Office is employed in a substantive senior civil service pay band two post. The CIO is responsible for a delegated budget of £5,109,000 for 2009-10.

Departmental Manpower

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials work in the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism; how many flights *(a)* within Great Britain and *(b)* overseas officials in the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism took in 2008-09; and at what cost to the public purse. [301938]

Mr. Hanson: As of 31 October, 397 civil servants worked in the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT).

We estimate that during 2008-09, the OSCT spent some £22,000 on flights within Great Britain and some £264,000 on flights overseas. We do not keep a central record of the number of flights taken by officials and this cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

All travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code and any other guidance as applicable contained within Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) alcohol and (ii) entertainment in the last 12 months. [305536]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office systems do not separately identify the cost of alcohol from overall entertainment costs, and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, we do retain records for hospitality provided by both civil servants and Ministers. The spend for 2008-09, the last 12 month period for which there are audited figures, was £50,371.

Home Office expenditure on official hospitality and entertainment conforms to departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which complies with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Hospitality is defined as the provision of food, drink and entertainment of non-civil servants at modest cost where it is beneficial to the interests of the Department.

For the Department's agencies, the Criminal Records Bureau and the Identity and Passport Service's spend could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 2006. [306436]

Mr. Woolas: Non-consolidated performance payments are an integral element of the staff reward package in the Home Office. They encourage and reward high performance. As non-consolidated payments, they have to be re-earned each year and do not add to future pay bill costs, for example pensions costs.

The Home Office (including the UK Border Agency), as part of its annual pay arrangements, pays non-consolidated performance related payments to up to 35 per cent. of its staff. There are separate arrangements for the Department's senior staff, which are set by the Prime Minister for the whole senior civil service, following independent advice from the Senior Salaries Review Body.

In the financial years for which data are available the total salary bill for staff in the Home Office and UKB and the proportion of which was paid in non-consolidated performance payments was:

		£ million
	Total salary bill	*Non-consolidated payments*
2005-06	752	4.28
2006-07	723	4.45
2007-08	710	4.48
2008-09	791	4.75

It is also possible to give one-off non-consolidated special payments to members of staff in-year to reward exceptional achievements on a project or programme. The total cost of such payments in 2008-09 was £1.16 million the figure for 2007-08 was £2.56 million.

Departmental Publications

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects his Department's White Paper on policing to be published. [303710]

Alan Johnson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my written ministerial statement of 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 127WS. The White Paper "Protecting the Public: Supporting the Police to Succeed" was published on 2 December 2009 at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police-reform/protecting-the-public2835.pdf?view=Binary

Departmental Training

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305905]

Mr. Woolas: Data are not collected centrally on the number and cost of Home Office staff who have attended overseas training courses, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation: Expenditure

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on the removals process between 1 January and 1 December 2009. [309168]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to provide this information in the format requested.

There are a range of costs, such as ticketing, escorting and detention costs that might be involved in removal and there are many staff involved in the removal process across the UK Border Agency, including seconded police officers. To disaggregate the funding and other resources in place to support the removals process from the overall budget and resources would incur disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 215W, on the sponsor register, how many institutions *(a)* have had an application to join the sponsor register refused and *(b)* have been removed from the register of licensed sponsors under Tier Four of the new immigration rules since 31 March 2009. [308320]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* There have been 228 institutions that have had an application to join the sponsor register refused between 31 March 2009 and 21 December 2009 under Tier 4.

49 Tier 4 sponsors have been removed from the sponsor register between 31 March 2009 and 21 December 2009.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Extradition: USA

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his duty to assess the appropriateness of extraditing persons to the US in relation to health grounds applies *(a)* at the time of the receipt of the US application, *(b)* at the time of proceedings in the UK and *(c)* at the time immediately before the extradition takes place; and if he will make a statement. [308319]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* In the scheme of the Extradition Act 2003, it falls to the courts to determine whether health factors raise a barrier to a person's extradition. However, the Home Secretary has an implied power to withdraw an extradition order where, exceptionally, a new matter arises subsequent to the completion of all proceedings under the Act but before extradition takes place. The basis for this implied power is section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998, which renders it unlawful for the Home Secretary, as a public authority, to act in a way which is incompatible with a convention right.

Firearms

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in *(a)* England, *(b)* Sussex and *(c)* Lewes constituency were (i) killed and (ii) wounded by a firearm in each year since 1997. [308563]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* Available information relates to crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been fired or used as a blunt instrument resulting in fatal and other injury. Data for England and the Sussex police force area, from 1997-98 up to and including 2007-08, are given in the following table. Constituency level data are not collected centrally.

Firearm offence statistics for 2008-09 will be published on 21 January2010.

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used[1] resulting in injury: England total and Sussex police force area, 1997-98 to 2007-08

	Injury type	
	Fatal injury	Serious[2] or slight injury
1997-98		
England	52	745
Sussex	1	15
1998-99[3]		
England	50	807
Sussex	2	13
1999-2000		
England	62	1,124
Sussex	—	16
2000-01		
England	71	1,275
Sussex	—	13
2001-02[4]		
England	94	1,761

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used[1] resulting in injury: England total and Sussex police force area, 1997-98 to 2007-08

	Injury type	
	Fatal injury	*Serious[2] or slight injury*
Sussex	2	40
2002-03[5]		
England	78	2,041
Sussex	1	20
2003-04		
England	68	2,245
Sussex	1	9
2004-05[6]		
England	76	3,704
Sussex	—	25
2005-06		
England	48	3,679
Sussex	—	23
2006-07		
England	56	2,855
Sussex	1	23
2007-08		
England	53	3,101
Sussex	—	17

[1] Where firearms have been fired or used as a blunt instrument.
[2] A serious injury is the one which necessitated detention in hospital or involved fractures, concussion, severe general shock, penetration by a bullet or multiple shot wounds.
[3] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.
[4] Figures may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.
[5] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.
[6] More explicit guidelines for the classification of weapons introduced on 1 April 2004 may have increased the recording of firearm offences, particularly those committed by imitation weapons.

Gangmasters Licensing Authority: Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments the Gangmasters Licensing Authority has made to Cavendish Communications in the last 12 months; for what purpose; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract under which such payments have been made. [305152]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Gangmasters Licensing Authority has not made any payments to Cavendish Communications in the last 12 months.

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on fees of third party agents in relation to booking hotel accommodation in each such year. [309318]

Mr. Woolas: The current contract for booking hotel rooms for the Home Office Headquarters, Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and UKBA commenced in December 2008. Available information from this contract and since 2007 from the contract with the Identity and Passport Service on the number of nights booked by officials is as follows:

	Hotel room nights	
	January 2007 to November 2008	*December 2008 to November 2009*
(a) Home Office Headquarters	[1]—	12,345
(b) UKBA	[1]—	16,356
(b) CRB	[1]—	5,977

[1] Information unavailable.

	Hotel room nights		
	2007	*2008*	*2009*[1]
(b) IPS	6,159	10,165	9,376

[1] To 18 December 2009.

For the period from December 2008 to November 2009, the total fee of the third party agents relating to booking hotel accommodation for both the (i) Home Office Headquarters and (ii) CRB and UKBA equates to £144,469.

Information on hotel room nights booked and the hotel booking fee of the third party agents relating to the previous contract for the Home Office Headquarters and the UKBA for the period January 2007 to December 2008 is unavailable and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

For the Identity and Passport Service the third-party agents booking fee is incorporated into the hotel room cost, and a separate figure is unavailable.

Expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Immigration: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of people in the London borough of Bexley who are awaiting a decision on an application for leave to remain in the UK; [302101]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of people in the London borough of Bexley who made an application for leave to remain in the UK in the last 12 months. [302102]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case records.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 10 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. R. Z. Ullah. [307502]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 10 December 2009.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 83W, on police, when the chief executive of the National Policing Improvement Agency will send a reply to the hon. Member for Wellingborough. [307812]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* In the answer of 7 December (pursuant to holding answer of 3 December) I indicated that the matter had been passed to the NPIA for reply in June 2009. The chief executive of the National Policing Improvement Agency, Chief Constable Peter Neyroud, in fact wrote to the hon. Member on 30 June 2009 in response to his original query. I have sent the hon. Gentleman a copy of the letter following this parliamentary question.

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister of State expects to reply to the letters from the right hon. Member for Berwick-upon-Tweed dated 29 June, 17 September and 9 November 2009 concerning spouse sponsorship. [308131]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* I wrote to the right hon. Member on 22 December 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms S. Mpofu; [309153]

(2) when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. H. J. Kaabane; [309154]

(3) when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. A. Mortlock and Miss D. Taylor; [309157]

(4) when he plans to reply to the letter of 9 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. K. Mirza; [309158]

(5) when he plans to reply to the letter of 11 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton with regard to Mr G. Singh; [309160]

(6) when he plans to reply to the letter of 11 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton with regard to Mr. M. A. Chaudhry. [309161]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 16 December 2009.

Police Stations: Statistics

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons his Department decided to stop recording the number of police stations operational in the UK in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [3092[illegible]]

Mr. Hanson: Previously information on the number of police stations opened and closed in England and Wales was collected centrally from police authorities via a yearly survey. The last full survey was for March 2007.

The data that the survey generated were not generally reliable. The management of the police estate and the allocation of resources are matters for police authorities and chief constables to determine.

In the interests of reducing bureaucracy, these data are no longer collected and held centrally.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 83W, on police, when the Independent Police Complaints Commission requested police forces to start providing information relating to complainant disability; and when the resultant data will be published. [307811]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* As stated previously, the IPCC is responsible for the collation and publication of complaint statistics for England and Wales and has done so since it was established in 2004.

The IPCC first captured information relating to complainant disability in April 2009. However, the IPCC had concerns about the accuracy and quality of the data and did not include the data in its Complaints Statistics for 2008-09. The IPCC will not publish the data until it is confident of their quality and accuracy and is working with forces to ensure the quality and accuracy of the disability data on complaints statistics recorded by forces.

Police: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department plans to provide to each police authority in 2010-11; and what mechanism is used to determine the allocation of funding to police authorities. [304013]

Mr. Hanson: The provisional police funding settlement for 2010-11 was announced on 26 November 2009. Formula grant funding for all police authorities was provisionally set at £8.3 billion. The following table lists the grant allocation for each police authority.

Government funding for police authorities is chiefly allocated using a funding formula that distributes resources on the basis of relative need.

Table of police grant allocations by English and Welsh police authority 2009-10 to 2010-11

Police authority	*2009-10 formula allocation[1] (£ million)*	*2010-11 allocation[1] (£ million)*	*Change on 2009-10 formula allocation (percentage)*
English shire authorities			
Avon and Somerset	179.7	186.1	3.5
Bedfordshire	70.8	73.1	3.3
Cambridgeshire	81.0	83.5	3.0
Cheshire	120.5	123.5	2.5
Cleveland	97.7	100.1	2.5

Table of police grant allocations by English and Welsh police authority 2009-10 to 2010-11

Police authority	*2009-10 formula allocation[1] (£ million)*	*2010-11 allocation[1] (£ million)*	*Change on 2009-10 formula allocation (percentage)*
Cumbria	67.2	68.9	2.5
Derbyshire	112.6	116.2	3.1
Devon and Cornwall	186.4	191.1	2.5
Dorset	65.3	66.9	2.5
Durham	91.4	93.7	2.5
Essex	177.9	183.1	2.9
Gloucestershire	59.3	60.8	2.5
Hampshire	207.5	213.0	2.7
Hertfordshire	121.2	124.9	3.0
Humberside	128.4	131.8	2.6
Kent	192.1	197.4	2.7
Lancashire	204.1	209.7	2.7
Leicestershire	118.0	121.4	2.9
Lincolnshire	64.3	66.3	3.2
Norfolk	87.6	89.8	2.5
North Yorkshire	76.7	78.6	2.5
Northamptonshire	75.5	77.5	2.7
Nottinghamshire	141.4	146.0	3.3
Staffordshire	120.6	123.8	2.7
Suffolk	71.0	72.7	2.5
Surrey	101.8	104.4	2.5
Sussex	169.8	174.1	2.5
Thames Valley	238.2	244.7	2.8
Warwickshire	54.1	55.6	2.7
West Mercia	121.8	124.9	2.5
Wiltshire	65.2	66.8	2.5
Shires total	3669.0	3770.0	2.8
English metropolitan authorities			
Greater Manchester	458.9	472.5	3.0
Merseyside	267.4	274.3	2.6
Northumbria	249.9	256.2	2.5
South Yorkshire	204.1	209.2	2.5
West Midlands.	486.1	504.3	3.8
West Yorkshire	339.2	350.5	3.3
Mets total[6]	2005.7	2067.1	3.1
London authorities			
GLA - Police	1978.3	2027.7	2.5
City of London[2]	21.0	21.8	N/A
English total	7674.0	7886.6	2.8
Welsh authorities			
Dyfed-Powys[3]	54.4	55.8	2.5
Gwent[3]	82.6	84.7	2.5
North Wales[3]	80.1	82.1	2.5
South Wales[3]	181.5	186.4	2.7
Welsh total	398.6	409.0	2.6
Total	8072.6	8295.7	2.7

[1] Rounded to the nearest £100,000. Grant as calculated under the Local Government Finance Report (England) and Local Government Finance (No.2—Provisional Settlement Police Authorities) Report (Wales). Table includes the effects of floors and scaling.

[2] Figures for the City of London relate to Home Office Grant only as calculated in the Police Grant Report (England and Wales). Revenue support grant is allocated to the Common Council of the City of London as a whole in respect of all its functions. The City is grouped with education authorities for the purposes of grant floors.

[3] Welsh figures include Home Office floor funding.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police civilian staff are employed in Gloucester; and what the equivalent figures were in 1997. [308231]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* Police personnel statistics are not collected by parliamentary constituency. Data for police officers have been collected by Basic Command Unit (BCU) since April 2001 and data for police staff have been collected by BCU since April 2002.

There were 292 police officers in Forest and Gloucester BCU as at 31 March 2002 and 359 police officers as at 31 March 2009.

There were 69 police staff in Forest and Gloucester BCU as at 31 March 2003 and 114 police staff as at 31 March 2009.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to his Department's publication, "Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Consolidating Orders and Codes of Practice Summary of Responses", page 18, if he will place in the Library a copy of the response from *(a)* the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, *(b)* the Chartered Institution of Waste Management, *(c)* the British Broadcasting Corporation, *(d)* the Department of Communities and Local Government/Fire Services in England, *(e)* the National Undercover Working Group Legal Group, *(f)* the Chief Surveillance Commissioner and *(g)* Interception of Communications Commissioner. [308651]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office intends to publish all responses on its website and will do so shortly. Copies of the responses will also be placed in the Library.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to his Department's publication, Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: Consolidating Orders and Codes of Practice Summary of Responses, page 16, which of the 41 respondents supported local authority use of the Act for dog fouling, littering or school enrolment checking. [308653]

Mr. Hanson: Seven were from members of the public, three identified themselves as individuals from local authorities and the remaining 31 were responses from local authorities.

Religious Buildings: Registration

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 28 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 474W, on "Non-domestic Rates: Religious Buildings", which organisations have had applications to be certified under the Places of Worship Registration Act 1855 rejected by the Registrar General since 1979. [308766]

Meg Hillier: The Places of Worship Registration Act 1855 (the Act) provides for places of meeting for religious worship, excluding those belonging to the Established Church, to be certified to the Registrar General. A number of tests are applied by the Registrar General when a place of meeting for religious worship is certified to him. This includes the application of the judgment by the Court of Appeal in the Segerdal case in 1970. The main finding in the judgment is that the words 'place of meeting for religious worship' in the Act connote a place of which the principal use is for people to come together as a congregation to worship God or do reverence to a deity. A further test is whether the principal use of the building is for worship or for other matters, such as a private home or social club.

Once the Registrar General is satisfied that the place of worship certified to him is capable of recognition, he adds it to the register of such places which, under the Act, he has a duty to maintain.

The duty placed on the Registrar General does not extend to maintaining and retaining records of places or organisations that are not capable of recognition as places of worship under the Act, and the records held in this respect by the Registrar General are incomplete. However, the records that the Registrar General does hold confirm that since 1979, the following organisations have made unsuccessful applications for buildings certified as places of worship to be added to the register:

Miracle Revival Assembly
Calvary Full Gospel Church
Christians not otherwise designated
Roman Catholics
The Methodist Church
Who object to be designated by any distinctive Religious Appellation
Order of Christ Spirit
Christian Spiritualist
Jehovah's Witnesses
Centre for Christ
Pentecostal Assemblies of God
Baptists
Mount Zion Holiness Assembly
Church of Christ
Christian Fellowship in Huddersfield
Interdenomination
Christians Nazarenes Methodist and Pentecostal
First Church of Christ, Scientist
Wentworth Road Christian Fellowship
Assemblies of God
Llanelli Baptist
Great Conrad Free Church
Calvary Church of God
Church of God
Good News Church Macclesfield
The Spiritualist Sanctuary
German Speaking Evangelical Lutheran Congregation
The Order of Women Freemasons
Muslims
Gur Sangat
Orthodox Christians
Cramlington Spiritualist Church
Frankley Methodist /Anglican Church
Fellowship of Churches of Christ
God's Church of Peace
Penzance Christian Fellowship
Nailsea Christian Fellowship
Pentwyn Christian Fellowship
Officers and Members of Emmanuel Pentecostal Faith Church of God
Church of Christ of Bethlehem
Weybridge United Reformed Church
Horringer Court Christian Fellowship
Christchurch Abbeydale
Brotherhood Movement
Caribbean House Chaplaincy
Greater World Christian Spiritualist Association
The Independent African Caribbean Church of Christ of Nazareth
The Pentecostal Evangelistic Assembly
Letchworth Lodge of the Theosophical Society in England
The Holiness Church of God Inc.
The Othona Community
Trinity Church of Christ
The New Benedictine Order
The Spiritualists National Union Redwoods
Redditch Christian Fellowship
The British Sailor's Society
Emmanuel Christian Fellowship
Highfield Free Church
Good News Church
Hammarens Ordens Sallskap—The Order of the Hammer
Apostolic Church of God Seventh Day
Mechanics
Korean Presbyterian Church
Coptic Orthodox Church
United Reformed Church
The Ashford Christian Spiritualist Church
Universal Life Church
Amazing Grace and Friends
Tavistock Community Church
Apostolics
Trinity Church of Christ
Church of England and United Reformed Church
Confucians (Buddhists, Goddess of Mercy)
Apostolic Church International (in UK)
Members of the Correllian Nativist Church International
Buddhists (New Kadampa Tradition)
Cantheist
Freedom Family Church
Redeemed Christian Church of God
C.J's City
St. Andrews Church of God
Wiccan
Life Sanctuary Church
Kriya Yoga Ashram
Jesus Christ The Great Salvation Fellowship
Mount Sion Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ

Security: Olympic Games 2012

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there are plans to contract private security firms for the 2012 Olympics. [308811]

Mr. Hanson: The Private Security Industry will play a role in delivering a safe and secure Olympic and Paralympic games. LOCOG, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, will require an estimated 6,000 people to protect their assets, protect the perimeters of their venues, screen people and vehicles entering the venues and also to work as safety stewards in the venues.

The Olympic and Paralympic Security Directorate (OSD) within the office for security and counter-terrorism (OSCT) of the Home Office is supporting an innovative project called 'Bridging the Gap' which aims to train up to 10,000 young adults to Security Industry Authority standards to fill these roles. The OSD is working closely with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), LOCOG and the 'Bridging the Gap' project to ensure that sufficient numbers are trained and that there is a legacy for the young people in terms of job opportunities in the Private Security Industry, and other uniform services after the games. The OSD is also engaging the Private Security Industry to ensure they are aware of the challenge ahead, not just in securing the games, but also in ensuring that levels of service to businesses elsewhere in the UK are maintained.

Terrorism Act 2000

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students have been *(a)* stopped, *(b)* detained and *(c)* arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 in the last five years. [301037]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not hold statistics which are recorded in this way. However, the Home Office collates statistics on the number of terrorism arrests and these were included in a Bulletin published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008). The first edition of the Bulletin is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

The second issue of the Bulletin was published on 26 November 2009 and is available via the link below:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

UK Border Agency

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget is of the UK Border Agency Abu Dhabi hub for 2009-10. [301241]

Mr. Woolas: Abu Dhabi is the regional operations centre for the Gulf and Pakistan, dealing with visa applications from Iran, Pakistan, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Abu Dhabi will be the largest UK Border Agency operation overseas by application volume. There are 142 staff.

Abu Dhabi carries out the full range of tasks associated with visa processing, including the administration, pre-assessment and assessment of visa applications, document verification, post-decision work, including appeals, administrative reviews, correspondence and complaints handling, risk and airline liaison, integrity management, and regional management.

Under the finance model agreed with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, upon whose platform the Abu Dhabi hub operates, the budget is not constructed in a way that accounts for particular posts.

The costs passed to the UK Border Agency from the FCO are a combination of variable costs, such as those related to headcount, and fixed charges such as management support and depreciation. The variable costs paid by the UK Border Agency for 2009-10 are around £6.5 million. The fixed element for the Abu Dhabi hub cannot easily be disaggregated from the global total and to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

UK Border Agency: Empty Property

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to pages 80 and 81 of his Department's Resource Accounts 2008-09, for what reasons the UK Border Agency made payments of £1.3 million to landlords for empty properties. [309310]

Mr. Woolas: A large estate such as that occupied by the UK Border Agency is likely to have some surplus property at times, especially as it is consolidating the number of properties it has to deliver better value for the taxpayer overall. Where a property is empty the Agency is required to declare the costs associated with that property while UKBA retains the lease. In 2008-09 payments for the empty properties were £1,072 million, comprising rent, rates, and a nominal amount for utilities. This represents 1 per cent. of the cost of running the UKBA estate. Overall the agency has benefited from reduced property, IT and productivity gains from rationalisation that outweigh these costs.

Vehicle Intelligence Scheme

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* objectives and *(b)* scope is of the Association of Chief Police Officers' Vehicle Intelligence Scheme which receives funding from his Department. [308549]

Mr. Hanson: The purpose of the ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (AVCIS) is to retain a strategic overview of issues affecting the UK specifically with regard to vehicle crime and vehicle enabled crime in order to maintain reductions in vehicle crime and vehicle enabled crime in the UK; improve recovery rates of stolen vehicles; and identify emerging threats and trends, developing a range of tactical options which are effective, timely and proportionate.

In order to deliver against its purpose, all the activities of AVCIS are categorised within six aims:

to reduce theft of vehicles;

to reduce theft from vehicles;

to increase recovery of stolen vehicles;

to reduce vehicle fraud;

to deliver bureau functions (including TruckPol); and

to develop AVCIS capability to deliver against its aims.

AVCIS delivers against this remit through close partnership with local police forces and regional intelligence units and national law enforcement agencies such as UKBA, SOCA and HMRC. It also works very closely with partners in the private sector, including insurers, manufacturers, vehicle tracking companies and others.

Vetting

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many checks undertaken by the Criminal Records Bureau a dispute was *(a)* raised and *(b)* upheld in each year since 2002, broken down by reason for the dispute. [302193]

Alan Johnson: The following table details a breakdown of the number of checks undertaken by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) which were the subject of a dispute since the launch of the Disclosure service in 2002. Officials at the Bureau have advised me that they have recently performed a data cleansing exercise which has resulted in some changes to the previous figures disclosed. I have been assured that this exercise has now been completed.

	2002-03		*2003-04*		*2004-05*		*2005-06*		*2006-07*		*2007-08*		*2008-09*		*2009-10*		*Total*	
Error type	*Raised*	*Upheld*	*Raised*	*Upheld*	*Raised*	*Upheld*	*Raised*	*Upheld*	*Raised*	*Upheld*	*Raised*	*Upheld*	*Raised*	*Upheld*	*Raised*	*Upheld*	*Raised*	*Upheld*
Department for education and skills and Department of children schools and families	0	0	3	3	5	5	4	3	10	8	23	15	20	12	15	11	80	57
Department of health	1	1	0	0	2	2	3	3	7	5	8	1	4	1	2	2	27	15
Identification error	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Local police force	108	108	321	318	619	602	794	764	804	656	1,787	678	2,378	926	1,302	567	8,113	4619
Other (data cleansing)	569	121	1,189	151	1,280	26	1,456	38	1,467	11	89	1	13	0	11	0	6,074	348
Police national computer (PNC)	408	408	796	792	930	892	1,004	920	1,043	748	3,538	1,297	2,495	810	1,015	332	11,229	6,199
Police national computer identification	588	473	766	621	775	762	667	648	740	683	954	586	1,296	778	647	471	6,433	5,022
System error	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
Uncategorized	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	32	0	932	0	972	0
Total	1,674	1,111	3,077	1,887	3,613	2,291	3,931	2,379	4,072	2,112	6,408	2,578	6,238	2,527	3,924	1,383	32,937	16,268

Vetting: Councillors

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the *(a)* Independent Safeguarding Authority and *(b)* Criminal Records Bureau has provided guidance to local authorities on the undertaking of checks in respect of councillors. [308691]

Meg Hillier: It is the Home Office, working with other Government Departments, rather than the Independent Safeguarding Authority and the Criminal Records, which is responsible for preparing guidance on the operation of the Vetting and Barring Scheme.

The Home Office is working with the Department for Communities and Local Government and policy leads in the Department of Health/Department of Children Schools and Families to produce specific guidance on the requirements introduced by the Vetting and Barring Scheme for elected members and other local authority officials. Information on the Vetting and Barring scheme has been issued that allows individuals and organisations to assess where they fall under the scheme. This is being supplemented by comprehensive generic guidance and sector specific guidance where required. All of the guidance will be in place by July 2010.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on art works in the last 12 months. [306439]

Jim Knight: Works of art displayed in the Department for Work and Pensions are from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. The most recent details of acquisitions made by the GAC were published on 5 October 2009 and are available on the GAC website at:

http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/information/publications.asp

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assets of her Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if she will make a statement. [300376]

Jim Knight: The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion in asset disposals over the period 2011-14 and will publish further details of opportunities to commercialise business assets in the coming weeks.

One of this Department's key investment strategies during the 2004 spending review period was to reduce asset ownership, and contract for key services. The successful implementation of that strategy resulted in a greatly reduced asset base.

The DWP does not own any land or property. Asset transfer has already been completed through a PFI contract known as PRIME, returning exchequer receipts of £250 million in 1998 and £100 million in 2003 when DWP outsourced its estate. This arrangement covers the majority of property occupied by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (a Crown non-departmental public body). There is currently no intention to sell any of the Commission's assets during the years in question.

Planned asset sales for the Health and Safety Executive (a Crown Non-departmental public body) are outlined in the following table:

		£000	
		Vechicles[1]	*Land*
2009-10	NBV	235	5
	Sales	262	1
2010-11	NBV	362	10
	Sales	362	10
2011-12	NBV	347	0
	Sales	347	0
2012-13	NBV	277	0
	Sales	277	0
2013-14	NBV	362	0
	Sales	362	0

[1] Vehicle sales are mainly related to the Health and Safety Executive's Private User Scheme which provides vehicles on a three year contract for staff travelling in excess of 5,000 business miles per annum on a shared cost basis.

The DWP disposed of the majority of its vehicle fleet in August 2007. The Department's IS/IT and telephony requirements were outsourced to EDS (now part of Hewlett Packard) and BT in 2005.

Leasehold improvements to Jobcentre Plus sites are classed as assets but cannot be disposed of independently so the impact on value is negligible, as the assets themselves (the buildings) are not owned by the Department.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside her Department's building attended by civil servants in her Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307513]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by her Department and its agencies on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308837]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many external consultants work for her Department. [303243]

Jim Knight: Where DWP contracts for consultancy support it does so primarily by reference to the outcomes or services to be delivered and not by reference to a given number of consultants. Accordingly, the Department does not hold centralised information on the number of consultants being employed on such contracts at any point in time.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many plasma screen televisions her Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306068]

Jim Knight: The number of plasma screen televisions purchased on behalf of the Department, including related costs, are as set out in the following table:

	Number	*Cost (£)*
2006-07	3	2,264
2007-08	9	4,725
2008-09	5	2,344
2009-10	9	2,770

Information prior to 2006-07 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what pay band her Department's Chief Information Officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307555]

Jim Knight: The Department's chief information officer is employed within the senior civil service pay band 3 on a permanent contract. He is responsible for a budget of £1,191 million in 2009-10.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for her Department. [303610]

Jim Knight: The number of press officers employed by the Department in its national press office and across the English regions, Scotland and Wales for the last accounting year 2008-09 is 38. In addition to their responsibilities to the Department for Work and Pensions, they provide services for Jobcentre Plus and The Pension, Disability and Carers Service.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criminal offences have been *(a)* abolished and *(b)* created by primary legislation sponsored by her Department since 1 May 2008. [303259]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows:

The Pensions Act 2008 created the following offences:

(i) a wilful failure by an employer to comply with the duties to automatically enrol or re-enrol their employees into pension saving, or allow them to opt into pension saving. These enrolment and opt in duties are set out in sections 3(2), 5(2) and 7(3) of the Pensions Act 2008 and the offence is at section 45 of the Act;

(ii) an existing offence of providing false or misleading information (Pensions Act 2004) was amended. It now includes information which must be provided to the Pensions Regulator by employers about action they have taken or intend to take for the purposes of their duties under the Pensions Act enrolment provisions.

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 created the following offences:

Sections 32D and 32K of the Child Support Act 1991 (as inserted by sections 22 and 23 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008) create the offences of failure to comply with the requirements of an order made under sections 32A (regular deduction order), 32E (interim lump sum deduction order) and 32F (final lump sum deduction order), these sections also contain a power to designate any regulations made under sections 32C and 32J as falling within the scope of the offence.

Section 36 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 created a regulation making power to impose a duty of failing to notify a change of address on a person liable to make payments of child support maintenance. The power when exercised would set the duty out in the Child Support Information Regulations 2008. The offence is inserted into section 14A of the Child Support Act 1991.

The Welfare Reform Act 2009 created the following offences:

Section 55 of the Welfare Reform Act 2009 substitutes the provision made by section 36 of the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2009 extending the duty and the scope of the offence to include failure to notify any other change of circumstances.

Section 51 of the Welfare Reform Act 2009 inserts section 39CA into the Child Support Act 1991, to require persons against whom an order disqualifying a person from holding a driving licence or travel authorisation is made to surrender the document within a required period (seven days beginning with the start of the period for which the order has effect) and where there is good reason for not surrendering within that period, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of that period. A person who fails to comply with this requirement commits an offence.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff of her Department were in its redeployment pool on 1 *(a)* January, *(b)* April, *(c)* July and *(d)* October 2009. [306710]

Jim Knight: The Department does not have a redeployment pool. Any members of staff who become surplus unavoidably because of organisational or other changes are managed within normal lines of management.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) alcohol and (ii) entertainment in the last 12 months. [305528]

Jim Knight: The information is as follows:

Alcohol

The Department does not currently keep a separate record of expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. Such expenditure is included within the hospitality account. Expenditure on alcohol and entertaining is based on the principles set out in Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money. Accordingly, alcohol is provided only as an exception and then only with the specific written authority of a small number of designated Senior Civil Servants.

Entertainment

Departmental expenditure on hospitality to the end of the financial year 2008-09 was £82,362. This is broken down as follows:

	£
Jobcentre Plus	6,970
Pensions, Disability and Carers Service	11,509
Corporate	63,883
Total	82,362

The 2008-09 published accounts show expenditure on hospitality as £116,652. This figure includes expenditure incurred by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (£5,691) and the Health and Safety Executive (£28,599) which are non-Departmental Public Bodies.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria will be used to determine which of those aged 18 to 24 years old will be covered by *(a)* the young person's guarantee and *(b)* the flexible New Deal; and if she will estimate the number in each such group in 2010-11. [306356]

Jim Knight: Beginning from January 2010, all jobseekers aged between 18 and 24 will have access to the Young Person's Guarantee. As the Chancellor announced in the pre-Budget report, any young person on Jobseeker's Allowance for six months or more will now be guaranteed an offer of a job, work-focussed training or work experience.

In Flexible New Deal Phase One areas, young people will be offered a place on the Young Person's Guarantee after six months of unemployment, and will be referred to the Flexible New Deal when they reach 12 months of unemployment.

In Flexible New Deal Phase Two areas, the New Deal for Young People will continue to run until the Flexible New Deal goes live in October 2010. In these areas, young people will also be offered a place on the Young Person's Guarantee from six months, the only difference being that if they choose to take up training or a work experience place these will be delivered through the New Deal options.

The information on the number of people who will be participating is not available, as we do not project unemployment figures.

Housing Benefit

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the expenditure by local authorities on housing benefit administration in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09. [309532]

Helen Goodman: The Department does not hold information on local authorities' expenditure on housing benefit administration.

Such information as is available for local authorities in England is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; in Scotland it is a matter for the Scottish Parliament; and in Wales it is a matter for the National Assembly for Wales.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claims were not processed *(a)* within the Jobcentre Plus target time and *(b)* within the national average time in each (i) Jobcentre Plus district and (ii) region in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement; [302242]

(2) how long on average it took to process a claim for jobseeker's allowance in each *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district in each month since February 2009; how many unprocessed jobseeker's allowance claims there were in (i) total and (ii) each region in each month since February 2009; and if she will make a statement. [302243]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance (JSA) claims were not processed (a) within the Jobcentre Plus target time and (b) within the national average time in each (i) Jobcentre Plus district and (ii) region in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement and how long on average it took to process a claim for JSA in each (a) region and (b) Jobcentre Plus district in each month since February 2009; how many unprocessed jobseeker's allowance claims there were in (i) total and (ii) each region in each month since February 2009; and if she will make a statement. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Information is not available down to District level as JSA claims are processed at our Benefit Delivery Centres. The Management Information supplied will be for each Benefit Delivery Centre and Region.

Jobcentre Plus gathers information on the volume of outstanding claims from its internal benefit processing systems. As claims are received in Benefit Delivery Centres they are recorded on this system. The count of outstanding claims is a snap shot, of which claims have yet to be fully processed to the point a decision is made on entitlement, on the last working day of every month. The data provided may also slightly under estimate the volume of claims outstanding as some cases could be in transit and/or be waiting to be logged onto the system.

Jobcentre Plus has a target for the average actual clearance time taken to process JSA claims. The current target is 11.5 days. This time is calculated across an average of all the claims cleared in any given month looking at the date the customer first contacted Jobcentre Plus or the customers first day of unemployment, whichever is the later. The end date is the date a formal decision is made on the claim and a notification is issued to the customer on entitlement.

Jobcentre Plus does not hold information on what volume or proportion of JSA claims were not processed within the Jobcentre Plus target time (11.5 days) and within the national average time (10.1 days, Year to 31.10.09). However, it does hold information on the volume of claims that were processed within 0-5 days, 0-10 days, 0-16 days, and 0-21 days. Jobcentre Plus's Management Information systems do not hold information on proportions—these would need to be clerically calculated from the information provided.

The information that is available to answer your first question has been placed in the Library.

Information on average clearance times for JSA claims and volumes of outstanding claims for the period from February to April 2009 for each Benefit Delivery Centre and Region has been placed in the Library. Information on average clearance times for JSA claims and volumes of outstanding claims for the period from May to October 2009 was placed in the Library on 27 November 2009 in answer to your question: how many unprocessed JSA claims there were in each (a) region and (b) Jobcentre Plus district in each of the last six months; what the average time taken to process claims in each instance was (PQ 300684).

Local Housing Allowance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 48W, on local housing allowance, what the timetable is for removal of the £15 excess. [309381]

Helen Goodman: On 7 December 2009 the pre-Budget report announced that the Government had decided not to implement the withdrawal of the £15 excess in April 2010.

The Government are considering all aspects of the local housing allowance alongside its wider strategy for housing benefit reform in its consultation document "Supporting People in to Work: The Next Stage of Housing Benefit Reform". Our proposals will ensure that housing benefit is better able to help people into work, is fairer, more efficiently delivered and represents good value for money for the taxpayer.

National Insurance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applicants for national insurance numbers have been refused national insurance numbers following right-to-work interviews in each quarter since July 2006. [301779]

Jim Knight: The available information is in the table:

National insurance number refusals following right to work interviews in each quarter since July 2006

	Quarter 1 April-June	Quarter 2 July-September	Quarter 3 October-December	Quarter 4 January-March	Total
2006-07	—	825	968	1,801	3,594
2007-08	1,936	1,902	1,638	1,643	7,119
2008-09	1,562	2,526	3,106	2,668	9,862
2009-10	2,641	n/a	n/a	n/a	2,641

"—" Indicates no data available as the period was before the introduction of the right to work test.
n/a = Not yet available.
Note:
The right to work test was introduced in July 2006
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Management Information

New Deal Schemes

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse of the New Deal Gateway to Work programme was in the last 12 months; and how many participants the programme has had in each year since its inception. [303030]

Jim Knight: The New Deal Gateway to Work programme is a component of both the New Deal for Young People and the New Deal 25 Plus.

The cost of the New Deal Gateway to Work programme in the 12 months to March 2009 for the 18 to 24-year-old client group was £41.4 million.

For the age 25-plus client group, it is not possible to identify the costs of the New Deal Gateway to Work programme separately from other types of provision undertaken during the gateway period. This is because expenditure on this provision is not recorded separately from other provisions. The total cost of all gateway provision for the 25 plus year old client group was £15.8 million in the 12 months to March 2009.

The following table sets out the number of participants who have started on the Gateway to Work provision for each year since inception.

Starters on the Gateway to Work course—a component of New Deal

Financial year	New Deal for Young People	New Deal 25 Plus	Combined New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 Plus
2001-02	44,990	3,480	48,470
2002-03	51,730	7,430	59,160
2003-04	50,410	11,730	62,140
2004-05	43,470	12,470	55,940
2005-06	49,710	8,190	57,900
2006-07	60,310	6,900	67,210
2007-08	58,140	13,910	72,050
2008-09	67,800	13,860	81,660

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The Gateway to Work course was introduced to New Deal for Young People in July 2000, so the first full year data is for 2001-02.
3. A pilot in a number of Districts for New Deal 25 Plus ended in March 2006, followed by optional use nationally.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Social Security Benefits

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance her Department gives people whose benefit claims are rejected or withdrawn on grounds of excess capital on what future rundown of capital will be regarded as reasonable. [302542]

Jim Knight: If a customer is not entitled to an income-related benefit due to excess capital a decision notice will be issued to the customer that includes reasons for the disallowance and details of their right to a reconsideration of the decision and, where appropriate, to an appeal. Customers are also informed that they will need to reapply if their circumstances change, in order for eligibility to be reassessed. No specific advice is given as to the future rundown of capital in these cases. This is because subsequent decisions on whether deprivations have occurred are a matter of judgement by independent decision makers.

If it is established that the customer has deliberately deprived themselves of capital in order to obtain income-related benefits, the customer will be treated as still possessing that capital when assessing entitlement to benefit. Their claim will be subject to a calculation to determine at what point this notional capital would have been expected to reduce below the capital limit and so enable the customer to make a new claim. The calculation is based on the prevailing benefit rates. The customer will be given details of the calculation in their case, together with the rights of review and, where appropriate, appeal.

Social Security Benefits: Grandparents

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for which benefits and allowances administered by her Department a retired grandparent is entitled to claim in respect of a grandchild who is being fostered by that grandparent. [306721]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Birmingham, Northfield (Richard Burden) on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1009-10W.

Work Capability Assessment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 818-20, on benefit reform, what changes to the work capability assessment *(a)* would be desirable and *(b)* are planned. [308845]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* We are currently reviewing the work capability assessment with the help of a range of stakeholders and medical professionals. We believe there are some changes that could be made and plan to publish a report detailing these once the review is complete.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Cost Effectiveness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what efficiency savings projects the Government Equalities Office put in place under the Operational Efficiency Programme; on what date each such project was initiated; how much each such project was expected to contribute to the Office's savings; how much had been saved through each such project on the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [300943]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office is outside the remit of the Operational Efficiency Programme as it employs less than 250 people.

Departmental Domestic Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality on how many occasions she visited *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [303495]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Ministers for Women and Equality have made the following visits since November 2008.

(a) Scotland

	Visits made
Minister for Women and Equality (Harriet Harman)	3
Deputy Minister for Women and Equality (Maria Eagle)	0
Parliamentary Secretary (Michael Jabez Foster)	1
Solicitor-General and Equality Bill Lead (Vera Baird)	1

(b) Wales

	Visits made
Minister for Women and Equality (Harriet Harman)	1
Deputy Minister for Women (Maria Eagle)	1
Parliamentary Secretary (Michael Jabez Foster)	2
Solicitor-General and Equality Bill Lead (Vera Baird)	0

(c) Northern Ireland

None. Equality is a devolved matter for the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many plasma screen televisions the Government Equalities Office has purchased since its inception; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306082]

Michael Jabez Foster: None.

JUSTICE

Council Tax: Non-payment

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for North West Norfolk of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1214W, on council tax: non-payment, how many applications for liability orders were made to each magistrates' court in 2008-09; [308525]

(2) what assessment he has made of the reason for the increase in applications for liability orders. [308527]

Bridget Prentice: The table shows the number of applications for council tax and business rate liability orders made within each accounting centre in 2008-09.

The figures have been extracted from the intranet fees accounting system (IFAS). Fee income and volume are captured by accounting centres in IFAS. Some accounting centres comprise of more than one magistrates court. However, some of these accounting centres merge the management information which means it is not possible to supply data at individual court level.

Applications for liability orders attract the same fee charge, and are therefore recorded on the IFAS in the same way. It is not therefore possible to distinguish between applications for liability orders made in relation to council tax and business rates.

The overall number of applications made in 2008-09 as shown (3,121,089) is marginally different from my answer (3,124,406) to the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham) of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1214-1215W. The latter figure was extracted from the IFAS database at the time the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk tabled his question, but in order to obtain a breakdown by accounting centre, data have been re-extracted from the IFAS. The IFAS is a "live" database, meaning that, inevitably, the normal course of regular system updating means that various additions, deletions, amendments and corrections will have been made to the data it contains relating to applications in 2008-09, giving rise to the marginal difference.

Enforcement action in respect of non-payment of council tax is entirely a matter for local authorities. The Ministry of Justice has made no assessment of the reasons behind the increase in council tax liability orders.

Number of applications for council tax liability orders made by accounting centre in England and Wales, 2008-09

Accounting centre	*Number*
City of London Magistrates	1,525
Horseferry Road Magistrates	26,826
Bexley Magistrates	7,035
Bromley Magistrates	8,957
Camberwell Green Magistrates	81,412
Croydon Magistrates	20,786
Greenwich Magistrates	29,837

Number of applications for council tax liability orders made by accounting centre in England and Wales, 2008-09

Accounting centre	*Number*
Kingston-upon-Thames Magistrates	6,855
Richmond-upon-Thames Magistrates	9,141
London—West Group Magistrates	82,726
Wimbledon Magistrates	21,182
South Western Magistrates	15,935
London North East Area Magistrates	133,815
Barnet Magistrates	7,160
Hendon Magistrates	16,333
Brent Magistrates	29,010
Enfield Magistrates	19,585
Harrow Magistrates	5,854
Highbury Corner Magistrates	48,092
Haringey Magistrates	16,453
Uxbridge Magistrates	13,569
Bedfordshire Magistrates	47,465
Cambridgeshire Magistrates	27,536
Essex Magistrates—Civil	80,578
Hertfordshire Central Accounting Unit	21,905
Kent Central Finance Unit—East Kent Magistrates—Finance Centre	25,575
Kent Central Finance Unit—North and Central Kent Magistrates	50,728
Norfolk Magistrates	41,269
Suffolk Magistrates Court	37,912
Surrey Magistrates—Central Finance Unit	35,381
Sussex Magistrates	80,870
Central Buckinghamshire Magistrates—Aylesbury	34,828
Oxfordshire Magistrates	27,277
Berkshire Magistrates—Reading	42,763
Bath Magistrates	3,452
Bristol Magistrates	24,733
Taunton Magistrates	7,442
North Somerset Magistrates	12,840
North Avon Magistrates—Yate	9,041
South Somerset Magistrate	9,491
Devon and Cornwall—North Devon Magistrates	3,583
Devon and Cornwall—East Cornwall Magistrates	14,924
Devon and Cornwall—West Cornwall Magistrates	9,428
Devon and Cornwall—Central Devon Magistrates	9,413
Devon and Cornwall—South Devon Magistrates	11,057
Devon and Cornwall—Plymouth District Magistrates	18,183
Dorset Magistrates—Central Finance Office	41,821
Gloucestershire Magistrates—Central Finance Office	27,696
Wiltshire—Swindon Magistrates	25,667
Hampshire and Isle of Wight—North East and North West Hampshire Magistrates	17,059
Hampshire and Isle of Wight—South West Hampshire Magistrates	33,025
Hampshire and Isle of Wight—South and South East Hampshire Magistrates	35,065
Hampshire and Isle of Wight—Isle of Wight (IOW) Magistrates	7,750
Gwent Magistrates	33,176
North Wales Magistrates—Central Finance Office, Denbigh	34,330
South Wales Area 1—Central Finance Unit Unisys	65,349
Dyfed Powys Magistrates	24,629
High Peak	4,304
North East Derbyshire and Dales Magistrates	15,812
Southern Derbyshire Magistrates	33,969
Leicester Magistrates	26,165
Loughborough Magistrates	28,239
Lincolnshire Magistrates	24,162
Northamptonshire Magistrates	32,771
Mansfield (Rosemary St.) Magistrates	9,110
Newark Magistrates	4,431
Nottingham Magistrates	44,782
Worksop Magistrates	7,432
Staffordshire Magistrates	67,958
Walsall Magistrates	17,582
Sandwell Magistrates	10,191
Wolverhampton Magistrates Court	18,932
Dudley and Halesowen Magistrates	17,329
Warwickshire Magistrates	20,059
West Mercia Magistrates	37,309
Birmingham (VLC) Magistrates—(Corporation St.)	77,568
Coventry Magistrates	18,697
Solihull Magistrates	10,472
Sutton Coldfield Magistrates	1,120
Cumbria Magistrates—Central Payments Unit	24,066
Bolton Magistrates	19,831
Bury Magistrates	11,006
Manchester Magistrates	66,085
Oldham Magistrates	18,837
Rochdale Magistrates	20,926
Salford Magistrates	9,870
Stockport Magistrates	22,185
Tameside Magistrates	334
Trafford Magistrates	17,966
Wigan and Leigh Magistrates	20,180
East Lancashire Magistrates—Blackburn	19,838
Fylde Coast Magistrates—Blackpool	24,617
Pennine Magistrates—Burnley	20,514
South West Lancashire Magistrates—Chorley	8,847
Preston and Lancaster Magistrates	16,978
Knowsley Magistrates	11,472
Liverpool Magistrates	62,608
St. Helens Magistrates	9,786
Cheshire Accounting Division[1]	34,811
Cleveland Magistrates	44,277
Durham Magistrates	41,219
Humber—East Yorkshire Magistrates—Beverley	34,182
Humber—North Lincolnshire Magistrates—Scunthorpe and Grimsby Central Finance Unit	12,564
Humber—North Lincolnshire Magistrates—Scunthorpe and Grimsby Central Finance Unit	9,064
North Yorkshire Magistrates	18,762
Northumbria Magistrates	106,822
South Yorkshire Magistrates	104,221
West Yorkshire Magistrates	145,498
Total England and Wales	3,121,089

[1] Was North, South and West pre 1 July 2009

Source:

Intranet Fees Accounting System

Crimes Against Humanity: Jurisdiction

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has any plans to introduce legislation to restrict the universal jurisdiction of UK courts for crimes against humanity; and if he will make a statement. [309027]

Claire Ward: The offence of crimes against humanity is found in the International Criminal Court Act 2001. It covers crimes committed in England and Wales and Northern Ireland by any person and crimes committed outside the UK by UK nationals, persons subject to UK service jurisdiction and UK residents (including persons who subsequently become resident in the UK).

The Government have no plans to restrict this jurisdiction of the UK courts for crimes against humanity.

Debt Collection

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in what circumstances bailiffs can be used to collect unpaid credit card debts. [308812]

Bridget Prentice: Credit card judgment debts are treated as any other civil judgment debt for the purposes of enforcement, subject to any challenges the debtor makes in respect of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 (as amended by Consumer Credit Act 2006). However consumer credit debts remain in the county court for execution and they cannot be transferred up to the High Court for enforcement by a High Court enforcement officer as a normal county court judgment can.

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307958]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) is fully committed to achieving compliance with the Prime Minister's target of paying suppliers within 10 days, and is a signatory to the Prompt Payment Code. The MoJ has been collecting prompt payment data since November 2008 and the number and proportion of invoices paid within 10 days is shown in the following table.

Period name	*Total MoJ invoices paid in month*	*MoJ prompt invoices as percentage*	*Number of invoices paid in 10 days*
2008			
November	98,917	64	63,307
December	99,565	59	58,743
2009			
January	104,870	55	57,679
February	101,035	67	67,693
March	124,418	66	82,116
April	79,783	82	65,422
May	66,807	92	61,462
June	83,154	88	73,541
July	81,379	89	72,427
August	71,723	88	63,116
September	93,244	92	85,784
October	99,820	92	91,834
November	99,248	93	92,301

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305870]

Mr. Wills: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only by manually collecting the data from each division within the Ministry of Justice at a disproportionate cost. Expenditure on conferences must be incurred in accordance with the principles of the Treasury publications Managing Public Money and Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307797]

Claire Ward: The Ministry of Justice has been responsible for 237 statutory instruments since May 2008. The number of offences which these created and abolished can be established only at disproportionate cost since a manual trawl of the legislation would be required.

Driving Offences: Disqualification

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Magistrates' Association on sentencing policy for people convicted of driving whilst disqualified. [308213]

Claire Ward: The Chairman of the Road Traffic Committee of the Magistrates' Association corresponded in 2009 with Ministers on the subject of sentencing for the offence of driving while disqualified.

Drugs: East Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* trials and *(b)* convictions there were for drug offences in East Sussex between 2000 and 2009. [308460]

Claire Ward: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in the Sussex police force area for drug offences, from 2000 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Information held centrally cannot be broken down sufficiently to supply data for East Sussex, therefore Sussex police force area data have been provided in lieu.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for drug offences, Sussex police force area 2000 to 2007[1, 2]

	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2000	1,009	818
2001	1,306	1,081
2002	1,383	1,179
2003	1,164	1,075
2004	974	861
2005	1,162	1,026
2006	1,166	1,013
2007	1,317	1,141

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Insider Trading: Convictions

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted for offences related to insider dealing in each year since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [308376]

Claire Ward: The number of persons found guilty at all courts in England and Wales for offences under the Criminal Justice Act 1993 and the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 from 2005 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences relating to insider dealing, England and Wales 2005 to 2007[1,2]

Offence description	*Statute*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Insider dealing	Criminal Justice Act 1993, Sec 52	4	2	6
Disclosure, obstruction making false or misleading statements etc	Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, Secs 346, 351, 352, 397 and 398, Sch 4	1	2	3

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format by his Department of each security classification have been submitted to the Iraq Inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [309371]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Lady to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 840-41W. The Ministry of Justice is in the process of providing the Iraq Inquiry with all the documents and electronic information it holds which has been requested to date. This information spans every level of Government security classification.

Jamie Douglas

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Parole Board expects to consider the application for parole of Jamie Douglas. [308229]

Claire Ward: I will write to my hon. Friend shortly with details of this case.

Legal Advice and Assistance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons the Legal Services Commission has chosen the period between April and August 2009 to assess the annual run-rate of new matter start allocations for providers of the Advice and Assistance Scheme (Legal Help). [308468]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission chose the period April 2009 to August 2009 as this was the most up to date information available from legal aid providers when a review was undertaken in September 2009.

Legal Aid: Finance

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many responses he received to the consultation paper 18/09 on legal aid funding reforms; [308962]

(2) if he will publish the responses to the consultation paper 18/09 on legal aid funding reforms; and when he plans to announce his decisions on policy changes to be made in the light of the consultation responses. [308963]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 141WS, in which my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Lord Bach) announced the publication of a partial response to the consultation on Legal Aid Funding Reforms.

A total of 435 responses were received. There are no plans to publish the responses to the consultation. A copy of the consultation response and accompanying impact assessment has been placed in the House Library. A response to the proposals in relation to experts fees will be published in the new year. The documents are also available on the consultation section of the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.justice.gsi.gov.uk

Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders imprisoned under indeterminate sentence for public protection are in secure hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [307866]

Maria Eagle: Prisoners may be detained in hospital under powers of the Mental Health Act 1983, either if directed to hospital by the court on sentencing or if directed by the Secretary of State during their sentence. They may also be remitted to prison during sentence. On 17 December 2009, Ministry of Justice records showed 113 prisoners in hospital under powers of the 1983 Act, who were also serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment for public protection.

Prison Accommodation

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cells in the prison estate are not counted for the purposes of operational capacity; and for what reason each such cell is not counted. [307424]

Maria Eagle: Directors of offender management must ensure that each cell used for the confinement of prisoners has sufficient heating, lighting and ventilation and is of adequate size for the number or prisoners it is approved for. Each such cell is recorded on a prison's cell certificate.

Not all accommodation recorded on a prison's cell certificate is part of its certified normal accommodation and in the vast majority of cases will also not form part of its operational capacity. This is due to a range of operational reasons, which include those cells that are part of segregation units (where prisoners should only be held under a governor's express authority), cells in in-patient health care centres (which are only suitable for prisoners with relevant health needs) and holding cells in prison receptions (which are not suitable for holding prisoners overnight).

As of 14 December 2009, based on information from central records, about 2,712 places were not included in the certified normal accommodation (or uncrowded capacity) of the prison estate. This equates to an average of 19 cells per prison.

These figures have been drawn from central administrative/recording systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of increasing the period of time a person with a terminal illness can be released early from prison on compassionate grounds. [308552]

Claire Ward: Early release on compassionate grounds should only be permitted in the most exceptional circumstances and where the risk of reoffending is past. It is right, therefore, to apply stringent criteria. Prisoners with a terminal illness can receive the appropriate care and treatment while in custody and we believe that early release from their sentence should only be considered in the final stages or where they become too ill to remain in prison. The criteria applied in medical circumstances state:

> "the prisoner is suffering from a terminal illness and death is likely to occur soon; or the prisoner is bedridden or similarly incapacitated".

The three-month period is suggested as a guide for the sort of life expectancy that should be taken into consideration when applying the criteria but is just one of a number of factors that are taken into account.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* offenders and *(b)* offenders on temporary licence were released from HM Prison Service into the Probation Service, in each year since 2004. [309218]

Maria Eagle: Adult offenders serving a sentence of 12 months or more and all young offenders under 22 years of age are, upon release, subject to supervision by the probation services.

These figures are published annually in Offender Management Caseload Statistics (OMCS). Copies are in the House of Commons Libraries and on the MOJ website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

The following table shows the number of discharges from determinate sentences from prisons in England and Wales. The figures are the sum of adult prisoners released from sentences of 12 months or mo[illegible]luding indeterminate sentences) and all young offender releases.

	Prisoners released
2004	42,000
2005	42,000
2006	40,400
2007	42,700
2008	45,600

Data for 2009 will be available in the OMCS 2009 which will be published in July 2010.

Prisoners released on temporary licence remain the responsibility of the prison during the period of temporary release. However, where prisoners are liable to supervision on their normal release date but are released early under the End of Custody Licence scheme, they are required to meet their probation officer during the ECL licence period and to have regular contact after that in line with their supervision programme.

The number of ECL releases for those prisoners serving sentences of 12 months or more and less than four years for the year 2007 and 2008 was 2,941 and 5,643. Data for 2007 are based on the period from 29 June, when the scheme started, to 31 December.

All figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Body Searches

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on the strip-searching of females under the age of 18 years in prison. [307867]

Maria Eagle: In February 2009 the National Offender Management Service introduced new full search arrangements aimed at reducing the frequency of full searches by a more intelligence-led approach for all females detained within prisons in England. The new arrangements do not require the removal of underwear unless there is intelligence or suspicion at any stage that an item is concealed. The arrangements are kept under constant review, and a full assessment completed in August achieved a positive outcome. A further detailed assessment will be conducted early in spring 2010.

Prisoners: Location

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice at what average distance from home *(a)* young adult prisoners, *(b)* adult prisoners and *(c)* children prisoners were held in each year since 1997, broken down by sex. [308071]

Maria Eagle: Table A shows the average travelling distance from home in miles of remand and sentenced prisoners held in HMPs accommodation by gender. Data prior to 2006 are not available in the format requested.

All prisoners are asked for details of their home address on first reception to prison and on discharge from prison. Approximately 60 per cent. of prisoners (both male and female) are shown to have given a recognised address.

If no address is given, various proxies are used to determine distance from home, including next-of-kin address and committal court address.

Table A

	Adult (21+)		Young offender (18 to 20)		Juvenile (15 to 17)	
Month	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
September 2006	49	58	48	57	56	63
September 2007	50	59	49	50	55	71
September 08	50	57	50	53	52	55
May 2009	50	55	49	51	51	55

Table B shows the average distance from home in miles for remand and sentenced young people in .secure children's homes and secure training centres from 2001 to 2009 by gender. Data prior to 2001 are not available in the format requested.

Home area is taken as a young person's address at the time of sentence. If no address is recorded, the address of the Youth Offending Team that the young person is attached to is used as a proxy.

Table B

	Male	Female
2001	59	75
2002	59	61
2003	56	61
2004	56	69
2005	52	63
2006	48	61
2007	54	68
2008	52	59
2009	47	52

Prisoners: Mothers

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many mother and baby units exist for female prisoners in England and Wales; and what the capacity for female prisoners and their children is of each. [309016]

Maria Eagle: There are seven mother and baby units (MBUs) in England providing an overall capacity of 75 places. Each unit can normally accommodate one set of twins. However, the number of places available at any one time can fluctuate for operational reasons, and currently stands at 69. The following table lists each prison with an MBU and the current capacity.

Establishment	MBU capacity
Askham Grange	10
Bronzefield	12
Eastwood Park	12
Holloway	13
New Hall	3
Peterborough	12
Styal	7
Total	69

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) who the respondents were to the second round of consultation on voting rights for prisoners; [308289]

(2) how many respondents to the second round of consultation on voting rights for prisoners were convicted prisoners. [308290]

Mr. Wills: The second stage consultation on the voting rights of convicted prisoners closed on 29 September. A detailed analysis of the replies to the second stage consultation—including a breakdown of respondents—will be available upon publication of the Government's response. There have been over 100 responses to the consultation from a number of different groups including charities, local authorities, members of the public and prisoners, which we are currently considering carefully.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in each prison in England and Wales were held in overcrowded accommodation in the most recent period for which figures are available. [307869]

Maria Eagle: The average number of prisoners in overcrowded accommodation in each prison for the period April to October 2009 is provided in the following table.

Establishment name	Average number of prisoners held in overcrowded conditions: April to October 2009
Acklington	0
Albany	0
Altcourse	891
Ashfield	0
Ashwell	27
Askham Grange	0
Aylesbury	0
Bedford	293
Belmarsh	372
Birmingham	640
Blantyre House	0
Blundeston	127
Brinsford	35
Bristol	162
Brixton	228
Bronzefield	0
Buckley Hall	67
Bullingdon	423
Bullwood Hall	17
Bure	0
Camp Hill	148
Canterbury	211
Cardiff	[illegible]
Castington	2
Channings Wood	32
Chelmsford	233
Coldingley	24
Cookham Wood	0
Dartmoor	46
Deerbolt	0
Doncaster	761

Establishment name	Average number of prisoners held in overcrowded conditions: April to October 2009
Dorchester	166
Dovegate	95
Dover	0
Downview	0
Drake Hall	0
Durham	708
East Sutton Park	0
Eastwood Park	46
Edmunds Hill	0
Elmley	403
Erlestoke	0
Everthorpe	151
Exeter	409
Featherstone	23
Feltham	0
Ford	0
Forest Bank	666
Foston Hall	0
Frankland	0
Full Sutton	0
Garth	32
Gartree	0
Glen Parva	413
Gloucester	145
Grendon	0
Guys Marsh	86
Haslar	0
Haverigg	25
Hewell	377
High Down	234
Highpoint	43
Hindley	0
Hollesley Bay	0
Holloway	0
Holme House	263
Hull	578
Huntercombe	0
Kennet	321
Kingston	0
Kirkham	0
Kirklevington	0
Lancaster	155
Lancaster Farms	83
Latchmere House	0
Leeds	608
Leicester	305
Lewes	136
Leyhill	0
Lincoln	469
Lindholme	79
Littlehey	123
Liverpool	349
Long Lartin	0
Low Newton	50
Lowdham Grange	89
Maidstone	55
Manchester	651
Moorland	77
Morton Hall	0
Mount	31
New Hall	55
North Sea Camp	2
Northallerton	165
Norwich	193
Nottingham	335
Onley	0
Parc	315
Parkhurst	35
Pentonville	533
Peterborough	216
Portland	0
Preston	638
Ranby	236
Reading	123
Risley	65
Rochester	0
Rye Hill	0
Send	0
Shepton Mallet	47
Shrewsbury	226
Stafford	0
Standford Hill	0
Stocken	69
Stoke Heath	133
Styal	20
Sudbury	0
Swaleside	95
Swansea	323
Swinfen Hall	26
Thorn Cross	0
Usk\Prescoed	241
Verne	62
Wakefield	0
Wandsworth	1,095
Warren Hill	0
Wayland	91
Wealstun	38
Wellingborough	2
Werrington	0
Wetherby	0
Whatton	67
Whitemoor	0
Winchester	420
Wolds	101
Woodhill	353
Wormwood Scrubs	124
Wymott	104

Probation Service: Disabled

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many staff of the Probation Service in England and Wales who have been diagnosed with a disability have been dismissed under the sickness attendance procedure since 1 April 2008; [308124]

(2) how many staff of the Probation Service in England and Wales who have been diagnosed with a disability are currently subject to stage *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 of the formal sickness attendance process. [308127]

Maria Eagle: Information about the reasons for dismissal or about individuals subject to the various stages of the formal sickness attendance process is not collated centrally as this is a local probation area management issue.

It is not possible to obtain the required information without incurring disproportionate costs as it would entail each of the 42 probation boards/trusts to collate and compile the information. This would then have to be submitted to the centre for further collation and presentation.

Radicalism: Crime Prevention

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many officials of his Department have responsibility to tackle extremism by developing interventions and programmes for extremist offenders; [308125]

(2) how many units within his Department have responsibility to tackle extremism by developing interventions and programmes for extremist offenders. [308126]

Maria Eagle: There are two units within the National Offender Management Service developing interventions and programmes for extremist offenders who work closely together;

National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Interventions and Substance Misuse Group (ISMG)

This unit, which is funded by the Home Office, is made up of four full-time and one part-time staff and is managed by a senior principal chartered forensic psychologist.

NOMS Chaplaincy HQ

The NOMS Chaplaincy HQ has set up a sub-committee (made up of eight part-time staff, and with oversight from the NOMS ISMG) for designing a faith-based intervention for tackling those offenders who may be vulnerable to extremism.

Reoffenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the most recent figures are for the re-offending rate of people aged *(a)* under 18, *(b)* between 18 and 21 and *(c)* over 21 years old for people who have been released from prison. [308068]

Maria Eagle: Table 1 contains the one year reoffending rates for offenders aged under 18 who were discharged from custody in the first quarter of each year for which data are available.

Table 1: One year reoffending rates for offenders aged under 18 discharged from custody, 2000, 2002-07

Cohort	Number of offenders	Rate of reoffending	Number of offences per 100 offenders
2000 Q1	912	75.7	482.1
2002 Q1	959	72.9	465.9
2003 Q1	786	73.8	442.5
2004 Q1	815	76.4	414.8
2005 Q1	844	73.1	409.5
2006 Q1	817	77.0	404.0
2007 Q1	778	75.3	359.0

Table 2 contains the one year reoffending rates for adult offenders aged 18 to 21, and 22 and over, who were discharged from custody in the first quarter of each year for which data are available.

Table 2: One year reoffending rates for adults discharged from custody, 2000, 2002-07, by age of offender

Age	Cohort	Number of offenders	Rate of reoffending	Number of offences per 100 offenders
18-21	2000 Q1	3,653	63.9	333.0
	2002 Q1	3,369	63.7	349.5
	2003 Q1	2,985	61.9	334.9
	2004 Q1	2,980	58.8	301.8
	2005 Q1	2,682	56.5	266.8
	2006 Q1	2,500	53.8	243.0
	2007 Q1	2,285	56.2	267.7
22 and over	2000 Q1	12,064	47.6	219.1
	2002 Q1	12,196	52.6	271.2
	2003 Q1	11,361	51.8	264.4
	2004 Q1	12,769	50.3	241.7
	2005 Q1	11,897	47.4	219.9
	2006 Q1	11,864	44.9	201.1
	2007 Q1	10,525	45.3	213.5

Note:

Reoffending data are not available for 2001 due to a problem with archived data on court orders. Since it will not substantially increase the knowledge on the current progress on reoffending, no resources have been allocated to fix this problem.

More information on the reoffending rates is available from the Ministry of Justice website.

Adult reoffending:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Juvenile reoffending:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingjuveniles.htm

Sentencing: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people received a *(a)* simple caution, *(b)* conditional caution, *(c)* cannabis warning and *(d)* penalty notice for disorder following a court appearance in each London local authority in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [309297]

(2) how many young people received a *(a)* reprimand, *(b)* final warning and *(c)* penalty notice for disorder following a court appearance in each London local authority in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [309298]

Claire Ward: Cautions, cannabis warnings, reprimands, warnings, and penalty notices for disorder are out of court disposals issued by the police, authorised persons and the Crown Prosecution Service to deal proportionately with less serious offences which do not merit prosecution at court. Data reported centrally on the number of cautions, cannabis warnings, reprimands, warnings or penalty notices for disorder issued do not identify if an offender has previously appeared in court.

The number of persons receiving a caution, reprimand or warning, or given a penalty notice for disorder, in Greater London, by age group, from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is given in table 1 as follows. Currently, data on simple or conditional cautions are not published separately although the Crown Prosecution Service is planning to publish conditional cautioning data on a monthly basis from February 2010.

Cautions and court proceedings data are not available at local authority level therefore information is given in the table for Greater London (includes the Metropolitan and the City of London police force areas).

Cautions, penalty notices for disorder, and court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Since 2004 the police may issue an adult offender with a cannabis warning for simple possession of cannabis (prior to 2006 referred to as a "street warning"), in accordance with guidance issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Home Office Statisticians advise that an offence can be shown as detected once the police have issued a cannabis warning. The data collected centrally relate to the number of offences of cannabis possession detected by means of a cannabis warning and may not be the same as the number of cannabis warnings issued to offenders. Information on the number of cannabis warnings recorded by the police as method of detection for possession of cannabis offences for the London region from 2004-05 to 2008-09 can be viewed in table 2 as follows.

Table 1: The number of offenders issued with a caution, reprimand, warning and penalty notice for disorder in London[2], by age group, 2003 to 2007[3,4,5]

	Cautioned				Penalty notice for disorder (PNDs)[6]		
	Total cautioned[7]	Aged 10 to 17 reprimand	Aged 10 to 17 warning	Aged 18 or over cautioned	Total PNDs	Aged 16 and 17	Aged 18 and over
2003	32,297	6,248	3,313	22,736	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2004	32,433	6,851	4,128	21,454	12,818	342	12,476
2005	35,959	7,180	3,880	24,899	18,266	888	17,378
2006	44,694	8,577	4,282	31,835	21,172	1,192	19,980
2007	49,706	8,587	4,600	36,519	25,070	1,306	23,764

[1] Not applicable.

[2] Includes Metropolitan police force area and City of London police force area.

[3] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings.

[4] The cautions, reprimand and warning statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When an offender has been cautioned, reprimanded or received a warning for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[6] The Penalty Notice for Disorder Scheme was implemented in all 43 police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.

[7] Includes Reprimands and Warnings.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services.

Table 2: The number of cannabis warnings recorded by the police as method of detection for possession of cannabis offences, for the London Region[1], 2004-05 to 2008-09

Police force area	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09[2]
London region	13,665	21,722	30,927	47,415	47,710

[1] Comprises City of London Police and Metropolitan Police.

[2] Since 26 January 2009, Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs) can be given for cannabis possession. Up to the end of March 2009 such PNDs were counted together with cannabis warnings.

Source:
Home Office Statistics.

Victim Support Schemes: Lancashire

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much Government funding has been allocated to victim support in the Lancashire Constabulary area in each year since 1996. [308583]

Claire Ward: Prior to 2001 records of specific allocation of how Victim Support decided to allocate Government funding, broken down into areas is not available. The following table gives the detail of the allocation of Government funding to Lancashire from 2001 to date.

	Total Government funding to victim support (£ million)	Funding allocated to Lancashire
1996-97	11.68	n/a
1997-98	12.68	n/a
1998-99	12.68	n/a
1999-2000	17.5	n/a
2000-01	18.6	n/a
2001-02	25.1	724,010
2002-03	29.3	580,325
2003-04	30	685,263
2004-05	30	640,119
2005-06	30	671,248
2006-07	30	667,785
2007-08	35.8	707,646
2008-09	37	794,296

n/a = Not available.

Young Offender Institutions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people there are in *(a)* the Josephine Butler Unit at Downview Young Offender Institution (YOI), *(b)* the Mary Carpenter Unit at Eastwood Park YOI, *(c)* the Rivendell Unit at New Hall YOI and *(d)* the Toscana Unit at Foston Hall YOI; and how much it cost to keep a person in ~~each of~~ those units in the latest period for which figures are available. [308026]

Maria Eagle: The following table sets out the number of young women (aged 17) held in young offender institutions on 30 October 2009, and the average annual cost per place at each.

The data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Establishment	*Number of young women held*	*Annual cost per place 2009-10 (£000)*
Josephine Butler Unit, Downview YOI	15	125
Mary Carpenter Unit, Eastwood Park YOI	15	133
Rivendell Unit, New Hall YOI	18	136
Toscana Unit, Foston Hall YOI	15	102

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of young offenders' institutions have *(a)* a resettlement officer and *(b)* a social worker. [308028]

Maria Eagle: Each young offender institution (YOI) has an offender management team that which oversees resettlement issues and fulfils the establishment's obligations in this regard. The size and composition of the team will depend on a number of factors including the role of the YOI and the size of the population.

There are currently 22.5 social worker posts in YOIs and dedicated units for young women in England and Wales. Eleven and a half of these posts are vacant.

Young Offenders: Females

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many females under 18 years were in custody *(a)* on remand and *(b)* after sentence in each month in each of the last three years. [308237]

Maria Eagle: The following table gives the numbers of females aged under 18 years in custody in all prison establishments *(a)* on remand and *(b)* under sentence in England and Wales in each month between June 2006 and June 2009:

		On remand	*Under sentence*	*Total*
2009	June	12	42	54
	May	15	44	59
	April	10	37	47
	March	13	34	47
	February	12	34	46
	January	15	36	51
2008	December	15	40	55
	November	18	50	68
	October	13	59	72
	September	17	56	73
	August	16	48	64
	July	17	53	70
	June	14	57	71
	May	13	56	69
	April	17	50	67
	March	14	44	58
	February	22	43	65
	January	20	43	63
2007	December	15	45	60
	November	20	44	64
	October	19	50	69
	September	15	53	68
	August	21	58	79
	July	18	60	78
	June	19	56	75
	May	23	58	81
	April	18	43	61
	March	17	55	72
	February	21	50	71
	January	24	42	66
2006	December	16	42	58
	November	16	50	66
	October	19	49	68
	September	21	49	70
	August	29	48	77
	July	21	46	67
	June	19	50	69

This information is available from the Ministry of Justice monthly briefing at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

The following table shows numbers of females aged under 18 years in custody at the end of each month since October 2006 in Secure Children's Homes and Secure Training Centres in England and Wales.

		On Remand	*Under sentence*	*Total*
2009	October	12	83	95
	September	11	79	90
	August	13	100	113
	July	16	96	112
	June	12	99	111
	May	16	86	102
	April	16	95	111
	March	20	96	116
	February	14	94	108
	January	18	102	120
2008	December	15	86	101
	November	20	110	130
	October	14	112	126
	September	11	98	109
	August	19	109	128
	July	22	113	135
	June	14	131	145
	May	22	113	135

		On Remand	Under sentence	Total
	April	35	101	136
	March	24	108	132
	February	23	104	127
	January	20	99	119
2007	December	17	126	143
	November	19	133	152
	October	19	135	154
	September	16	144	160
	August	16	149	165
	July	23	138	161
	June	15	128	143
	May	18	108	126
	April	16	112	128
	March	17	121	138
	February	26	111	137
	January	18	111	129
2006	December	14	115	129
	November	19	114	133
	October	13	105	118

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Young Offenders: Rehabilitation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what detoxification facilities are available in *(a)* the Josephine Butler Unit at Downview Young Offender Institution (YOI), *(b)* the Mary Carpenter Unit at Eastwood Park YOI, *(c)* the Rivendell Unit at New Hall YOI, *(d)* the Toscanna Unit at Foston Hall YOI, *(e)* Hassockfield Secure Training Centre (STC), *(f)* Oakhill STC, *(g)* Medway STC and *(h)* Rainsbrook STC. [308069]

Maria Eagle: The Young People's Substance Misuse Service delivers services in all under-18 young offender institutions including the four special units for 17-year-old girls. All young people entering a young offender institution are assessed for substance misuse needs and an appropriate care pathway is developed, specific to the young person's individual needs. Staff at all establishments are able to access NHS facilities or provide appropriate medical treatment.

The health care service provided to young people in secure training centres includes the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of physical and mental disorders, including addiction to drugs, alcohol, smoking and other intoxicating substances. All young people entering an STC are assessed by health care staff and have access to NHS facilities and specialists when clinically required.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of *(a)* 12, *(b)* 13, *(c)* 14, *(d)* 15, *(e)* 16, *(f)* 17, *(g)* 18 and *(h)* 19 year-olds who were released from each young offenders institution in each of the last five years re-offended (i) within the first month, (ii) between one and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months and (iv) between 12 and 24 months after release. [308236]

Maria Eagle: Reoffending data are based on offences committed within one year of an offenders' release from custody. Reoffending data covering longer time periods are not collated and therefore the proportion of offenders that reoffended between 12 and 24 months after release are not available.

Juvenile reoffending covers offenders aged 17 and under. A release from custody could be from a secure training centre, a secure children's home or a young offender institution. Data are not broken down by type of release establishment or by individual release establishment.

Table 1 as follows shows the rate of reoffending for each of the last five years for which data are available for offenders in the specified age groups. Those aged 12 through to 15 have been banded due to the small number of offenders in each of the groups.

Table 1: Number of offenders released from custody aged 12-17, and proportion that committed a reoffence within one year, split by age and date of offence, juveniles, 2003-07

			Percentage of offenders that committed a reoffence			
Cohort	Age	Number of offenders	Within 1 month of release	Between 1 and 6 months of release	Between 6 and 12 months of release	Total
2003	12-15	133	9.0	46.6	22.6	78.2
	16	235	20.0	44.3	12.3	76.6
	17	418	15.3	44.0	11.5	70.8
2004	12-15	209	19.1	42.6	18.7	80.4
	16	244	18.0	45.9	13.1	77.0
	17	362	16.6	45.0	12.2	73.8
2005	12-15	193	19.7	45.6	15.5	80.8
	16	275	19.6	38.2	12.4	70.2
	17	374	17.4	39.6	14.7	71.7
2006	12-15	200	19.5	44.5	19.0	83.0

Table 1: Number of offenders released from custody aged 12-17, and proportion that committed a reoffence within one year, split by age and date of offence, juveniles, 2003-07

			Percentage of offenders that committed a reoffence			
Cohort	*Age*	*Number of offenders*	*Within 1 month of release*	*Between 1 and 6 months of release*	*Between 6 and 12 months of release*	*Total*
	16	262	20.6	43.5	15.3	79.4
	17	355	14.6	42.0	15.2	71.8
2007	12-15	171	19.3	43.9	15.8	78.9
	16	246	17.5	44.7	15.0	77.2
	17	361	17.5	40.7	14.1	72.3

Offenders that are aged 18 and 19 are included in the adult dataset. We do not have the facility to determine which offenders were released from young offender institutions. However, all 18 and 19 year old offenders are held under young offender institution conditions, even if they are held in an adult prison. Table 2 shows the reoffending rates for all offenders aged 18 and 19 who were released from custody for the last five years for which data are available.

Table 2: Number of offenders released from custody aged 18-19, and proportion that committed a reoffence within one year, split by age and date of offence, adults, 2003-2007

			Percentage of offenders that committed a reoffence			
Cohort	*Age*	*Number of offenders*	*Within 1 month of release*	*Between 1 and 6 months of release*	*Between 6 and 12 months of release*	*Total*
2003 Q1	18	572	15.6	33.9	12.9	62.4
	19	728	14.3	[illegible]	12.4	62.4
2004 Q1	18	559	15.4	36.5	11.4	63.3
	19	783	15.3	32.1	10.7	58.1
2005 Q1	18	551	16.5	37.7	14.2	68.4
	19	689	12.3	32.5	12.2	57.0
2006 Q1	18	477	14.9	31.0	13.0	58.9
	19	644	14.3	31.4	11.5	57.1
2007 Q1	18	461	20.0	35.6	13.7	69.2
	19	593	13.2	31.5	11.1	55.8

Please note that the definition of a reoffence differs between adults and juveniles. For adults, any offence within a year of release from custody, that is proven by court conviction within 18 months of release, is counted as a reoffence. For juveniles, an offence proven by court conviction or a caution within the same time period is counted as a reoffence. For this reasons the adult and juvenile reoffending rates are not directly comparable.

Further information on adult reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Further information on juvenile reoffending is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingjuveniles.htm

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what loan loss rate his Department assumes in respect of the £280 billion portfolio of debts it is underwriting. [307150]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: RBS will bear 100 per cent. of the first £60 billion of losses on the £282 billion of assets that it has included in the Asset Protection Scheme (APS). As set out in the details of the Asset Protection Scheme, published on 7 December 2009, this is in line with HM Treasury's current view of the most likely level of losses on the APS assets.

Child Benefit: EU Nationals

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average, *(b)* upper quartile and *(c)* lower quartile length of time was taken to obtain confirmation that family benefits were not in payment in another EEA member state for EEA national child benefit claimants in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [308120]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs systems do not capture the time taken to obtain confirmation from other EEA member states.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308836]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Treasury does not hold a central record of conferences and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [300380]

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in each year; [302780]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses in 2009-10. [307028]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table sets out the information requested on performance awards paid by HM Treasury in 2008-09. For information on prior years I refer the hon. Members to the answer given by the then Exchequer Secretary, my hon. Friend the Member for Wallasey (Angela Eagle) on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 164W.

	HM Treasury performance awards 2008-09
Expenditure incurred	
Performance award (£000)	1,177
Special performance award (£000)	208
Number of staff receiving a bonus	
Performance award	482
Special performance award	[1]492
Percentage of staff receiving a bonus[2]	
Performance award	39
Special performance award	40
Largest single award (£000)	20

[1] In addition, one award was made to a member of staff on secondment to a private sector organisation that subsequently reimbursed the Department.
[2] Based on FTE headcount at 31 March 2009.

EU Emission Trading Scheme

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the projections in Table 2.9 of the Budget 2009, how much revenue he expects to come from the receipts from future phases of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in each year to 2013-14; and if he will make a statement. [307279]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The pre-Budget report includes the most recent estimates for EU ETS receipts, based on the likely number of allowances and the secondary market price of carbon, in the 'other taxes and Royalties' line in Table 2.9 of the economy and public finances-supplementary material.

The pre-Budget report (p120) also noted that, to date, UK carbon auctions had raised over £350 million and that future revenue was set to rise to around £2 billion in 2013-14.

Fiscal Policy

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what analysis his Department has undertaken of fiscal consolidation measures undertaken in other advanced economies over the last 30 years. [308675]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury officials undertake analysis relative to their respective policy spheres as a matter of course. This includes reviewing available literature and evaluation of previous policy actions where appropriate.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Indian Ocean Territory: Environment Protection

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will declare a no-take marine reserve in respect of the vulnerable reef systems of the Chagos Archipelago. [309413]

Chris Bryant: A decision will be taken following the public consultation which is at present under way and which will run until 12 February 2010.

British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 9 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1241W, on "British Overseas Territories: Prisoners", what plans there are to increase prison capacity in each of the UK Overseas Territories in the Caribbean in which prisoner population exceeds capacity. [309361]

Chris Bryant: The information is as follows.

Anguilla: The prison service has submitted a bid to the Government of Anguilla for financial support to enable the prison to purchase modular "ready to use" prison cells. In addition, concurrent plans are in hand to assess the feasibility of converting the prison's administration block into cellular accommodation. It is also expected that the Parole and Probation Bills will be passed in 2010, thereby diverting from prison a number of offenders and reducing overall prisoner numbers.

British Virgin Islands: A feasibility study is underway to assess the practicality of converting an existing prison workshop and storage area into cellular accommodation for lower risk prisoners. In addition, the establishment of the Parole Board in early 2010 will see a number of early releases on parole, thereby reducing prisoner numbers.

Cayman Islands: There is a process of building work within the site of HMP Northward which will add capacity during 2010. In addition, the Cayman Islands Government are assessing the potential of an "early release" scheme for suitable offenders and have set up a working group to look at the feasibility of a National Strategic Rehabilitation Board.

Turks and Caicos Islands: A new wing of the prison is now complete and the necessary security fencing is due to be finished by the end of January 2010. Although this wing is for the few female prisoners, the opening of this wing will free-up capacity elsewhere in the prison. In addition, the imminent completion of a new prison kitchen will enable the existing kitchen area to be converted into accommodation for low risk prisoners early in 2010.

Broadband

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 14 October 2009, what proportion of households in *(a)* the Falkland Islands, *(b)* St. Helena and *(c)* Tristan da Cunha have access to broadband internet. [309274]

Chris Bryant: Responsibility for telecommunications in the Falkland Islands, St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha rests with the Governments of the Falkland Islands, St. Helena and Tristan da Cunha, who hold the required information.

Cayman Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 66-67W, on "British Overseas Territories: Police", how many of the officers arrested for criminal activity in the Cayman Islands were convicted. [309224]

Chris Bryant: The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service has clarified that, of the 13 officers arrested in the last five years, six were arrested for criminal offences and the others were arrested for non-criminal offences. Of the six arrested for criminal offences, three have been convicted, two await trial and one has been acquitted.

Croatia: EC Enlargement

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on accession negotiations between the EU and Croatia; and if he will make a statement. [308360]

Chris Bryant: On 21 December 2009 the EU and Croatia provisionally closed a further two chapters of the accession negotiations, bringing the total provisionally closed to 17 out of 35. A further 11 chapters are open and under negotiation.

The European Commission published its annual report on enlargement on 14 October 2009 which assessed that Croatia's preparations had advanced substantially across the board in 2009, that technical negotiations are now nearing their final phase, and that if Croatia meets all outstanding benchmarks in time it could be possible to conclude negotiations in 2010. But Croatia has much to do if it is to meet this time scale. Reform efforts need to be stepped up in the areas of judiciary and fundamental rights, in particular as regards the independence and efficiency of the judiciary, the fight against corruption and organised crime, minority rights, including refugee returns, and war crimes trials. Public administration reform also requires particular attention. Croatia also needs to take all necessary steps to settle the issue of access for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to important documents.

The General Affairs Council on 7 and 8 December 2009 took stock of progress, commended Croatia for good overall progress, underlined the importance of meeting all benchmarks, called for the completion of a credible investigation into military documents requested by the Prosecutor of ICTY and welcomed the establishment of a working group for drafting an Accession treaty.

Departmental Air Travel

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on the accumulation and use of air miles by his Department's personnel flying at public expense. [308484]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett), the then Secretary of State, to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 995W.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether officials posted to UK embassies overseas who are not officials of his Department operate under the authority of the British Ambassador in that country; and if he will make a statement. [307050]

David Miliband: Staff of other Government Departments work under the authority of the Head of Post of the Mission in which they serve. They work to the objectives of their own Departments but the Head of Post has the right to issue instructions on any matter affecting the overall work and safety of the Mission and the Government's interest in the country concerned, and to take decisions on issues such as waiver of immunity or removal of a member of staff from post.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much press officers in his Department claimed in reimbursable expenses in each of the last three financial years. [303768]

Chris Bryant: For the amounts claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London in financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the reply by my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Meg Munn) on 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2179W.

The amount of reimbursable expenses that press officers at the FCO claimed from the press office budget in London in the financial year 2008/09 totalled £2,074.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what percentage of Parliamentary Questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307542]

Chris Bryant: In recent months, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has significantly improved its performance in answering named day PQs on time. The numbers of such PQs received and answered on time from January 2009 to Prorogation in November 2009 were as follows. Reliable statistics are not available for December 2008.

	Questions	
	Received	*Answered*
January	66	10
February	62	17
March	66	21
April	29	5
May	40	17
June	50	28
July	45	32
September	35	35
October	92	67
November	22	19

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the 'Guide to Parliamentary Work', at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee Report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on fees of third party agents in relation to booking hotel accommodation in each such year. [309320]

Chris Bryant: Booking and paying for hotel accommodation is devolved to individual Departments and posts to allow them to travel as needed to deliver the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Strategic Objectives. All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Records for accommodation and travel are grouped together and to provide a breakdown spanning the period from 2007 to present could be done only at disproportionate cost.

International Criminal Law

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in securing an internationally agreed definition of the crime of aggression; what the Government's proposed definition is; and if he will make a statement. [307787]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A Special Working Group on the Crime of Aggression concluded its work on 13 February 2009. The report is available at:

http://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/asp_docs/ICC-ASP-7-20-Add.1-SWGCA%20English.pdf

It includes proposals on the definition of the crime of aggression, with which the UK is generally content, as well as on the conditions for the exercise of jurisdiction over the crime. The proposals on the latter issue include a number of options. The proposals will now be considered at the Review Conference of the International Criminal Court to be held in Kampala in 2010. The Government continue to believe that any proposals must be consistent with the Charter of the UN and in particular with the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

We have no plans at present to make a further statement.

Kenya: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Kenya. [309147]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: UK foreign policy aims to encourage and support implementation of the National Accord agreed by the Kenyan Government following the 2007-08 post-election violence, to address issues that threaten the country's stability and prosperity. These include promoting a better constitution that reduces the "winner takes all" incentives for violence, making electoral cheating harder, and deterring political violence through reducing impunity. We will continue to support Kenyan leadership in tackling the root causes of violence, including economic inequality, tribal tension, lack of security sector reform and accountability. We will also work to combat corruption in Kenya, which is endemic with little political will to change. This is the same culture that embeds impunity, as seen in Kenya's failure to prosecute those who perpetrated the post-election violence.

The Government work closely with the EU and other partners such as Kofi Annan to co-ordinate support and engagement against these objectives . My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended the EU General Affairs Council Meeting in Brussels last July where Council Conclusions on Kenya were agreed. The conclusions highlighted the need for faster implementation of key reforms vital to the interests of the Kenyan people. My noble Friend, Baroness Kinnock, the Minister for Africa, plans to visit Kenya next week, and will reinforce these messages.

National Action Plan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what indicators with which to measure process efficiency and programme effectiveness his Department plans to include in the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. [309231]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are examining the use of indicators as part of the revision of the UK National Action Plan, which is now under way. We have started a stakeholder consultation process that includes the issue of how the UK can best measure progress against a revised plan.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the new agreement between the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on the rules for the forthcoming referendum in the south of Sudan; what reports he has received on the eligibility to register and vote of *(a)* southerners living in the north of Sudan and *(b)* northerners living in the south of Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [309132]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Minister of State, Department for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Harrow, West (Mr. Thomas) and my noble Friend Baroness Kinnock issued a statement on 15 December 2009 welcoming the progress made towards the forthcoming referendum in South Sudan following the agreement on 13 December 2009 at the level of the Presidency on the draft Bill.

The draft Bill reflected agreement between the parties on the eligibility to register and vote of southerners living in the north of Sudan and northerners living in the south of Sudan. We welcome the news that, despite last minute difficulties, on 29 December 2009 this Bill was agreed by consensus in the National Assembly in Sudan.

We also welcome the news that the legislation regarding the referendum for Abyei and the popular consultations for Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States was passed by the National Assembly on 30 December 2009.

Sudan: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment has been made of the human rights situation in South Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [308002]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As a result of tribal fighting, more people have died this year in South Sudan than in Darfur. This, and attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) displaced more than 300,000 people—more than double the number from 2008. The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) face several challenges which include the worsening humanitarian situation as well as security issues, corruption and the mismanagement of food stocks.

Our ambassador met with the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission in June to assess human rights issues, including the death penalty, women's rights, access to justice and the standard of detention facilities. Our ambassador also meets regularly with the GoSS President and Ministers to discuss citizen insecurity and LRA issues. The UK also works with the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and other international partners to secure peace so that human rights can be protected in Southern Sudan.

My noble Friend Baroness Kinnock will give a further assessment of developments in Sudan during a debate in the Lords today, 7 January 2010.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what initiatives on Sudan the Government has put forward under the recently re-established troika mechanism; and if he will make a statement. [308000]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are in regular contact with key partners on all of the issues that face Sudan. This includes contact with both the US and Norway, who together with the UK constituted the Troika during the negotiations for the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Our ongoing and close contact with the US and Norway forms a part of the UK's continued engagement with key partners on the situation in Sudan.

The parties to the CPA will need to decide between themselves on the initiatives and mechanisms that will support their efforts to arrive at a peaceful conclusion to the Interim Period. International partners should be prepared to play a strongly supportive role.

My noble Friend Baroness Kinnock will give a further assessment of developments in Sudan during a debate in the Lords today, 7 January 2010.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the implementation of the border ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration for the area of Abyei in Sudan in July 2009; and if he will make a statement. [308003]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The implementation of the Abyei ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration made in July 2009 is a key part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). We are concerned that, despite public commitment by both the National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to implement the ruling, progress remains significantly behind schedule. We understand that only a small number of border markers along the 230 kilometre border have been placed. Continuing uncertainty over the border increases potential tensions and hinders implementation of other CPA milestones.

We continue to press both parties to ensure that border demarcation, as well as other commitments on Abyei, are urgently completed. A representative of our embassy in Khartoum visited Abyei in early December 2009 as part of a joint delegation with the US embassy and the Assessment and Evaluation Commission. The delegation raised our concerns directly with Government and other interlocutors.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Sudan consequent on the North-South agreement on progress towards the forthcoming referendum; and if he will make a statement. [308064]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State for the Department of International Development (Mr. Thomas) and my noble Friend Baroness Kinnock released a statement on 15 December 2009 welcoming the progress made towards the forthcoming referendum following the agreement on 13 December 2009 at the level of the presidency on the draft Bill.

We welcome the news that, despite last minute difficulties, on 29 December 2009 this Bill was agreed by consensus in the National Assembly in Sudan.

We also welcome the news that the legislation regarding the referendum for Abyei and the popular consultations for Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States was passed by the National Assembly on 30 December 2009.

We continue to urge the parties to work together at this critical point in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to make progress on other outstanding areas and to help deliver a peaceful, equitable future for the whole of Sudan.

Tony Blair

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* others are available on a (i) full-time and (ii) part-time basis to support Tony Blair in his role as Middle East peace envoy; what criteria were used to select them; by whom they were appointed; what their salary band is in each case; and if he will make a statement. [309244]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are four members of the Office of the Quartet Representative who are directly linked to the Government.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides the following full time secondees to the Office of the Quartet Representative (OQR): one higher executive officer equivalent (salary range £23,157 to £31, 495); and one senior civil servant (salary range £57,300 to £116,000). Standard FCO procedure was followed for advertising, recruiting and appointing to these posts. Mr. Blair held final interviews.

The Department for International Development (DfID) also funds a secondee to provide expert governance analysis (Grade 6 equivalent, salary range £55,814 to £66,873).

A locally engaged secondee to the OQR in Jerusalem was also funded through the Conflict Prevention Pool from October 2007 to August 2008 at a cost of £30,874. After that, this position has been funded by the UN Development Programme Trust Fund.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will itemise how the £400,000 funding allocated by his Department to the United Nations Development Trust Fund in support of Tony Blair in his role as Middle East peace envoy is broken down by *(a)* salaries, *(b)* expenses and *(c)* other costs in the current financial year. [309245]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development made a contribution to the Office of the Quartet Representative of £400,000 in financial year 2008-09. This was disbursed between security, accommodation, project management, support staff and general support (IT, office equipment, insurance, etc).

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials of his Department are presently seconded to support Tony Blair in his role as Middle East peace envoy; what procedure is in place for those officials to report formally to their home Department; and whether they remain subject to the Civil Service Code. [309246]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides two secondees to the Office of the Quartet Representative (OQR). Officials from the OQR and FCO meet regularly. The secondees remain subject to the Civil Service Code.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department last met Tony Blair in his capacity as Middle East peace envoy. [309248]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary meets with Mr. Blair in his capacity as the Quartet Representative and regularly speaks to him on the telephone. Their last meeting was on 14 October 2009. Other Foreign Office Ministers have not met Mr. Blair recently in his capacity as Middle East peace envoy.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what checks are in place to ensure that monies made available to the United Nations Development Trust Fund to support the work of the Middle East peace envoy are not used for unauthorised or unconnected purposes. [309250]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The work of the Office of the Quartet Representative is set within the context of a UN Development Programme (UNDP) programme and is managed by the UNDP office based in Jerusalem according to UN procedures.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of the United Nations Development Trust Fund's budget to fund the office of the Quartet Representative was used to meet the office costs of Tony Blair in the current financial year. [309251]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This is a matter for the UN Development Programme and the Office of the Quartet Representative to answer.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what objectives Tony Blair has set in his capacity as Middle East peace envoy; and what the role of his Department was in setting those objectives. [309253]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Quartet Representative's following aims were set out in a statement from the Quartet:

> Mobilise international assistance to the Palestinians, working closely with donors and existing co-ordination bodies;
>
> Help to identify, and secure appropriate international support in addressing, the institutional governance needs of the Palestinian state, focusing as a matter of urgency on the rule of law;
>
> Develop plans to promote Palestinian economic development, including private sector partnerships, building on previously agreed frameworks, especially concerning access and movement; and
>
> Liaise with other countries as appropriate in support of the agreed Quartet objectives.

While the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had no formal role in setting these aims, it has continued to be closely involved in the middle east peace process and supports these aims.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has authorised the registration of any company in connection with the work of Tony Blair has set in his role as Middle East peace envoy. [309254]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Government funding to the Office of the Quartet Representative is handled by UN Development Programme not by a company.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not authorised the registration of a company in connection with the work of the Quartet Representative, which is a matter for the Office of the Quartet Representative not the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Tony Blair in his role as Middle East peace envoy. [309255]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK supports the aims of the Quartet, which are aligned with UK interests. Mr. Blair has made a significant contribution to these aims through his work as Quartet Representative. I refer the hon. Member to my answer to parliamentary question 309256.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the achievements of Tony Blair in his role as Middle East peace envoy. [309256]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We fully support the efforts of the Quartet Representative. He has brought important focus on efforts to create economic development.

We have seen some real progress on the ground. There has been an estimated 5 per cent. real growth in gross domestic product in 2008. This increase is due to a combination of factors especially a strong lead from the Palestinian Authority and strong donor support, but we judge that the Quartet Representative has made a valuable contribution.

The Quartet Representative has also played a strong role on a number of specific projects including the recent launch of Wataniya, the second telephony operator in the Palestinian Territories.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions Tony Blair has provided a written briefing to his Department pursuant to his role as Middle East peace envoy since 1 January 2009. [309257]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Office of the Quartet Representative regularly reports to Quartet members and donors. The Quartet Representative is also in regular contact with my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, as are his officials with our officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Western Sahara: Fisheries

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Polisario Front was consulted on the 2006 EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement prior to the making of that agreement. [309517]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The 2006 EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement was negotiated by the European Commission as a bilateral agreement with the Kingdom of Morocco—the de facto administering power in Western Sahara—and there was, therefore, no requirement to consult the Polisario Front.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's policy is on the negotiation of the proposed international Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement. [308967]

Mr. Lammy: The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement is a draft multilateral agreement which aims to provide a high-level international framework that strengthens global enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs). To combat the counterfeiting and piracy that threatens IPR owners, lawful businesses and the development of the world economy, ACTA concentrates on three areas: (i) better co-ordinated international co-operation, (ii) establishing best practice in enforcement methods and (iii) providing a more coherent legal framework.

The UK's policy on the negotiation of ACTA is to create an international standard to fight the growing problem of large-scale counterfeiting and piracy more efficiently, without introducing new UK intellectual property legislation.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had on the proposed international Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement; and if he will make a statement. [308968]

Mr. Lammy: I have regularly met officials of the Intellectual Property Office to keep abreast of the progress of the ACTA negotiations and to ensure that the UK position remains within the scope of existing UK legislation. I have also instructed officials to press for greater transparency in the ACTA negotiations.

Core Storage

Nigel Griffiths: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what independent valuation has been made of his Department's core store site at Gilmerton; and *(a)* by whom and *(b)* when this valuation was made. [308670]

Mr. Lammy: An independent valuation was carried out for the Department by the Valuation Office Agency in March 2009.

Nigel Griffiths: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* constructing and *(b)* operating the proposed new core storage facility in Nottinghamshire. [308672]

Mr. Lammy: These are issues for the Natural Environment Research Council. The cores will be located in an extension to the existing National Geological Data Centre in Nottinghamshire. I am advised that construction of the extension and relocation of the samples will be more than offset by the capital gain on the Gilmerton store, and that operating costs will be reduced by about £200,000 year.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title of each such conference was. [308819]

Mr. McFadden: This Department does not hold this information centrally and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond directly to you.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 6 January 2010:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference.

In the last three years, The Insolvency Service has organised one conference which it subsequently had to cancel. The conference which was entitled 'Encouraging Company Rescue' was due to be held in September 2009, and the costs incurred by cancelling the event were approximately £200.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 6 January 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 15 December 2009, UIN 308819, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Companies House has not spent any money in the last three years on conferences which were subsequently cancelled.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 5 January 2010:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 15 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The National Measurement Office has not spent anything on conferences they organized which were subsequently cancelled in the last three years.

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 22 December 2009:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 15 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

There is a Nil Response from The Intellectual Property Office.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether there has been any nugatory cost to *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies arising from tendered procurement in circumstances where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last five years. [303711]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is unable to provide nugatory costs relating to cancelled tenders because such costs are not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed:

The Minister of State, for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of the Insolvency Service in respect of your question (2009/289) whether there has been any nugatory cost to (a) his Department and its predecessors and (b) its agencies arising from tendered procurement in circumstances where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last five years.

The Insolvency Service has not cancelled any tenders prior to award of contract in the last five years.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 3 December 2009:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 30 November 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

There have been no nugatory costs to the Agency in the last five years relating to tendered procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract.

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 4 December 2009:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 30 November 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

There has been no nugatory direct cost to the Intellectual Property Office arising from procurement where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last five years. However, there was in 2006/07 and 2007/08 nugatory staff effort estimated at approximately £100 each year.

Letter from Gareth Jones:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 30 November 2009, UIN 303711, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

In the last five years Companies House has cancelled one procurement tender exercise prior to award of contract. There were no costs paid to the invited bidders as a result of the cancellation. Internal staff costs would have been incurred in the preparation of the tender process, but it is not possible to quantify them as they were not part of a formal project and therefore not recorded. However, we would not term these particular costs as being nugatory as a lot of the output generated has had continued value as reference material for future procurements.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department and its predecessors have spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305510]

Mr. McFadden: It is not possible to provide comprehensive figures for spend on ministerial photoshoots and video productions without incurring disproportionate cost. Many videos are produced using internal resources, for use on the Department's digital channels, such as YouTube. Others are commissioned externally as part of marketing campaigns and often not costed separately. Internal resources are also used for taking photographs at internal events.

Expenditure in the last three financial years using external photographers or video production companies which can readily be identified as ministerial photoshoots or videos including Ministers is as follows for the former Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the former Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

		£
2008/09		
BERR	Photography for ministerial Who's Who board and events	1,032
	Secretary of State event for all staff at BERR, October 2008	8,693.75
DIUS	Photography of Ministers	496
	Filming of Ministers	8,518.25
2007/08		
BERR	Photography of Ministers	450
	Videos: none identified	—
DIUS	Photography of Ministers: none identified	—
	Filming of Ministers	1,735
2006/07		
BERR	Photography of Ministers	195.76
	Filming of Ministers	7,843

Economic Situation

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills for which policies implemented as part of the Government's response to the recession his Department is responsible; when each such policy was determined; what timetable has been set for the implementation of each such policy; and what funding under each budget heading has been allocated to each such policy. [309341]

Mr. McFadden: The BIS policies that were designed specifically to respond to the economic downturn are those launched as "Real Help" schemes by the predecessor Departments (BERR and DIUS), as well as targeted support for graduates and key industrial sectors. The information you have requested is summarised in the following table.

Scheme	*Date agreed*	*Timetable for implementation and key milestones*	*BIS funding*
Enterprise Finance Guarantee	Announced in November 2008. 12-month continuation announced in December 2009.	14 January: Scheme launched to enable up to £1.3 billion of additional bank lending to SMEs by 31 March 2010. Up to £500 million of additional lending to be enabled between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011.	Scheme is subject to a 13 per cent. cap on net defaults—Government liability limited to £125 million for initial lending and £50 million for additional lending.
Capital for Enterprise Fund	Announced in January 2009.	January 2009: Scheme announced. Fund registered interest while fund managers were being appointed. April 2009: fund managers appointed. End of March 2010: Fund will be closed to new investments. Fund is on course to invest its allocation in this period.	Fund is £75 million, comprising £50 million of Government funds and £25 million committed from banks. £55 million is committed to be invested in period up to the end of March 2010, with £20 million reserved for follow on funding.
Working Capital Scheme	Announced in January 2009.	January 2009: Scheme launched. March 2009: EU State Aids approval received. April 2009: First tranche of guarantees agreed with RBS and Lloyds Banking Group. July 2009: Second tranche signed with Lloyds Banking Group. Short-term existing bank lending is guaranteed up to the end of March 2011.	The scheme is designed to be cost neutral. An appropriate provision has been made to cover the possibility of unexpected losses.
Trade Credit Insurance Top-up Scheme	Announced in April 2009.	May 2009: Scheme launched to cover reductions in trade credit insurance cover from 1 October 2008. Two changes made to the scheme: (1) June 2009: Eligibility for the scheme was backdated from 1 April 2009 to 1 October 2008. (2) August 2009: The price was reduced and cover limits were increased. 31 December 2009: Scheme closed to new applicants and all policies will expire by 30 June 2010 at the latest.	Demand-led scheme designed to be cost neutral. Contingent liabilities under the scheme capped at a maximum of £5 billion.
Prompt Payment	Ongoing interest. However, in response to evidence of extending payment times in autumn 2008, BERR announced a range of enhanced measures focused on Government-to-business and business-to-business payment.	October 2008: commitment for all central Departments to pay invoices within 10 days—19 out of every 20 invoices are now paid in 10 days. November 2008: BERR (with leading UK business organisations) launches a series of managing cash flow guides. December 2008: BERR supports launch of a new Prompt Payment Code by the Institute of Credit Management. There are now 740 signatories.	Development of 10 managing cash flow guides—total cost in the region of £30,000.
Automotive Assistance Programme	The Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP) received European Commission State Aids approval on 27 February 2009 and was launched in March 2009.	AAP operates under the European Commission Temporary Framework for State Aids, which ends on 31 December 2010. The final maturity dates of loan guarantees and loans can extend beyond 2010.	Will support investment in automotive sector of up to £2.3 billion through loan guarantees and, exceptionally, loans.
Vehicle Scrappage Scheme	Announced in April 2009.	May 2009: Scheme launched. September 2010: Additional funding to the scheme announced.	Up to £400 million.

Scheme	*Date agreed*	*Timetable for implementation and key milestones*	*BIS funding*
Response to Redundancy	Announced in November 2008.	April 2009 to December 2010.	£100 million.
Six month offer	Announced in January 2009.	April 2009 to March 2011	£83 million.
Young Person's Guarantee (Routes into work and work-focused training strands)	Announced in April 2009.	November 2009 to March 2011.	£122.4 million
Train to Gain SME flexibilities	Announced in October 2008.	On offer from January 2009. Flexibilities for funding for repeats ongoing; funding for short units due to end July 2010.	From Train to Gain budget, up to £350 million of growth over two years.
Professional and Career Development Loans (PCDLs)	Announced in the New Opportunities White Paper in January 2009.	1 July 2009: An enhanced version of the Career Development Loans programme went live. We remain committed to delivering 45,000 loans per year as soon as the capacity exists within banks to meet that target.	£12 million additional money allocated for 2009-10, with £24 million for 2010-11. This is on top of the recurrent baselines in place (to support existing Career Development Loans) of £25 million per year.
Apprenticeships (England). 35,000 additional places in 2009-10	Announced January 2009.	2009-10 financial year: 35,000 additional Apprenticeship starts in England funded by DCSF and BIS.	£140 million (BIS and DCSF).
Support for Graduates	Office for Graduate Opportunities (OGO) established in April 2009 in response to downturn. OGO responsible for several initiatives, as summarised in next column.	Internships: initial target of 5,000 internships now increased to 20,000. To be delivered by March 2010. Graduate Talent Pool website: went live in July 2009. Post-graduate study: ongoing policy to increase places—around 24,000 additional places expected—and support through PCDLs (see separate entry in table). Volunteering: 4,000 full-time and over 50,000 part-time or short-term. Help with business start-up or entrepreneurship training: including via HEFCE's Economic Challenges Investment Fund (ECIF) and Flying Start. Ongoing policy. Extra Mini-Knowledge Transfer Partnerships: 10-40 week placements in SMEs for graduates/postgraduates to work on specific projects vital to the business. Teach First: places for 2009/10 and 2010/11.	BIS funds the Graduate Talent Pool website and provided funding of £1.184 million in 2009-10 to cover infrastructure and publicity costs. In addition, BIS is working with DWP and HEFCE to deliver 10,000 subsidised internships, at a cost of around £16 million.

Employment: Bullying

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of bullying in the workplace. [308153]

Mr. McFadden: Existing legislation protects workers from the most serious kinds of bullying, for instance in cases of discrimination or harassment. The Government publish information and guidance on how this legislation can be used, and ACAS provides a nationwide telephone advice line offering assistance to employers and employees on bullying and other employment issues. These measures support the Government's policy aim that workers should be able to work without fear of being bullied or harassed by employers, fellow employees or anyone else.

Approximately £1 million was committed through DTIs Partnership at Work Fund to support a project on Dignity at Work/Bullying. The project, which completed in May 2008, was led by the Amicus section of Unite and included BAE Systems, Legal and General and British Airways as partners. The project promoted best practice and workplace initiatives to tackle bullying.

In November BIS was pleased to support the launch of new Guidance on Preventing Harassment and Violence in the Workplace prepared jointly by the CBI, (Confederation of British Industry), the PPE (Partnership of Public Employers) and TUC (Trades Union Congress in association with HSE (Health and Safety Executive), and ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service).

The joint guidance, issued following a Europe-wide agreement between employers' organisations and unions, aims to give practical help and support to firms and their employees.

This is available at:

http://www.workplaceharassment.org.uk/

European Investments Bank's 2020 Fund

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills which companies and organisations will be eligible to apply for support for green infrastructure projects from the European Investments Bank's 2020 Fund; and over what period this Fund is intended to remain open to applications. [307621]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The 2020 European Fund for Energy, Climate Change and Infrastructure will be advised by an independent advisory team. The advisory team will be responsible for appraising potential investments. The Fund will focus on greenfield investments within target sectors. Investments by the Fund will be equity participations in companies which directly or indirectly own or operate infrastructure in the following target sectors:

1. Transport—TEN-T (trans-European transport networks as defined in Decision No. 1692/96/EC of the European Parliament).

2. Energy—TEN-T (trans-European energy networks as defined in Decision No. 1364/2006/EC of the European Parliament) including electricity and gas, transportation, interconnection,

storage, infrastructure (including oil and gas storage, regas terminals, pipelines and related facilities and high voltage transmission) and electricity/gas distribution, electricity/gas/oil production, oil storage, as well as carbon capture and storage.

3. Mature renewables energies—including sustainable energy production, clean transport infrastructure, energy distribution and systems for hybrid transport (e.g. wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, biogas, hydro, waste to energy projects.

The advisory team will commence in the first quarter of 2010. The investment period is expected to be a four-year period from 4 March 2010.

Gilmerton Core Store

Nigel Griffiths: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what response the Secretary of State has given to representations from stakeholders objecting to the closure of the core stores in Gilmerton and Loanhead. [308640]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* My noble Friend the Secretary of State has written to my hon. Friend and my noble Friend the Minister of State for Science and Innovation will do so shortly in response to the letter from Redrock Associates International Ltd.

Nigel Griffiths: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what response the Secretary of State has made to the representations received from representatives of the oil, gas and carbon storage sectors on the proposed closure of the core store facilities at Gilmerton and Loanhead in Edinburgh. [308641]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* The Department has discussed the issues with the Natural Environment Research Council and the British Geological Survey. But this is a management matter for the Natural Environment Research Council.

Nigel Griffiths: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether a risk assessment has been commissioned on the effects on the national rock archive of proposed transport from Edinburgh to a proposed site in Nottinghamshire. [308642]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* No specific risk assessment was considered necessary as the British Geological Survey (BGS) currently moves core from the oil and gas suppliers to Gilmerton and Keyworth and between its sites, and already understands and manages this risk. It also moves core as part of the International Ocean Drilling Programme across the globe. However, the British Geological Survey will undertake a combined risk assessment and methods statement nearer the time of moving. A working group of the Collections Advisory Group, including co-opted members of the Geological Society of London Petroleum Group, will consider and advise on the detail.

Nigel Griffiths: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received from stakeholders on the conduct of the consultation process to close core store facilities at Gilmerton and Loanhead in Edinburgh. [308643]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* The Department has received one letter from Redrock Associates International Ltd. and other stakeholders about the consultation process to relocate core store facilities at Gilmerton and Loanhead.

Nigel Griffiths: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with stakeholders on the appropriateness of the proposed new site for the cores presently stored at Gilmerton and Loanhead. [308644]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* I have had no discussions with stakeholders. These are matters for the Natural Environment Research Council.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many full-time students are in their *(a)* first year, *(b)* second year and *(c)* final year of an undergraduate degree course. [308181]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is provided in the table.

Figures are provided for UK-domiciled full-time first degree enrolments by year of course.

UK-domiciled full-time first degree enrolments by year of course: UK Higher Education Institutions, academic year 2007/08

Year of course	*First degree enrolments*
First year	343,805
Second year	278,880
Third year	273,165
Fourth year or over	78,875
Total	974,720

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population.
2. Figures in the answer have been rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to total.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of residents in each local authority area who *(a)* have applied to start a university course in January 2010 and *(b)* have deferred entry from September 2009 to September 2010. [308449]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is not available centrally.

Information on applicants and accepted applicants to full-time undergraduate courses in UK institutions is collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Accepted applicants who begin courses in January 2010 are included in the 2009/10 entry figures published by UCAS. UCAS can identify which students start courses in January, though they do not regularly publish information on the start date of courses. End of year data for the 2009/10 academic year will not be available until January 2010.

Information on deferrals is provided to BIS from UCAS, but is not broken down by local authority area.

Middlesex University: Research

Joan Ryan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how much research funding has been allocated to Middlesex university in each year since 1997; [308714]

(2) what his Department's latest assessment of the quality of research undertaken at Middlesex university is; and if he will make a statement. [308717]

Mr. Lammy: Middlesex university has received the following quality-related funding for research allocated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England:

Time series of HEFCE research funding for Middlesex university for academic years 1997-98 to 2009-10, prepared by HEFCE Analytical Services Group on 18 December 2009, figures are in cash terms, and include late grant adjustments

	Middlesex university (£ million)
1997-98	1.93
1998-99	2.16
1999-2000	2.29
2000-01	2.31
2001-02	2.35
2002-03	1.76
2003-04	1.66
2004-05	1.63
2005-06	1.92
2006-07	1.86
2007-08	1.96
2008-09	1.95
2009-10	3.4

Higher Education Statistics Agency data show that Middlesex university received the following income from research councils (2008-09 data are not yet available):

	Research council grants (£000)
1997-98	512
1998-99	417
1999-2000	557
2000-01	581
2001-02	335
2002-03	17
2003-04	98
2004-05	263
2005-06	339
2006-07	614
2007-08	1,247

Middlesex university achieved the following results in the Research Assessment Exercise 2008, conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, which was published on 18 December 2008. The Department itself does not directly assess the quality of research undertaken at universities.

		Overall quality profile (percentage of research activity at each quality level)				
Unit of assessment	*FTE category A staff submitted*	*4**	*3**	*2**	*1**	*Unclassified*
11 Nursing and Midwifery	7.90	5	30	40	20	5
12 Allied Health Professions and Studies	10.10	5	25	35	30	5
23 Computer Science and Informatics	22.30	10	25	45	20	0
32 Geography and Environmental Studies	12.15	5	35	40	20	0
36 Business and Management Studies	38.79	5	25	50	20	0
38 Law	7.30	0	15	35	50	0
40 Social Work and Social Policy and Administration	15.20	5	45	40	10	0
44 Psychology	14.50	0	10	30	60	0
57 English Language and Literature	8.50	5	30	50	15	0
60 Philosophy	7.00	20	45	30	5	0
63 Art and Design	19.00	5	20	55	15	5
64 History of Art, Architecture and Design	12.00	15	40	35	10	0
65 Drama, Dance and Performing Arts	12.10	20	35	25	20	0
66 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies	4.00	0	45	25	30	0

RAE2008 quality levels

Scale	*Definition*
4*	Quality that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
3*	Quality that is internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour but which nonetheless falls short of the highest standards of excellence.
2*	Quality that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
1*	Quality that is recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
Unclassified	Quality that falls below the standard of nationally recognised work, or work which does not meet the published definition of research for the purposes of this assessment.

Minimum Wage: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people in Nottingham, North constituency who have been paid the uprated minimum wage in the last 10 years. [308493]

Mr. McFadden: Data for earnings are not available at the constituency level because of small sample sizes at constituency level in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE).

At the Government Office Region level, the lowest available, DTI previously estimated that the number of jobs that stood to benefit from the April 1999 introduction of the national minimum wage (NMW) in the east midlands region was 130,000. In 2009 the BIS estimate for the number of jobs affected by the uprating of the NMW in the east midlands region was 83,000.

Postal Services: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if his Department will make an assessment of whether post office services in Castle Point constituency comply with the access criteria set out in the Network Change Programme. [308984]

Mr. McFadden: I have asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Renewable Energy: Government Assistance

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has contributed to the development of the Government's proposed feed-in tariffs scheme. [307972]

Mr. McFadden: The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills has contributed to the development of the Government's proposed feed-in tariffs scheme as part of the normal policy-making process. Officials of the Department have had bilateral meetings with officials of the Department of Energy and Climate Change, are members the Renewable Financial Incentives Programme Board and have agreed the consultation proposals.

Research: Finance

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the *(a)* Higher Education Funding Council for England and *(b)* Research Councils UK on the effect on fundamental scientific research of the proposed impact plans; and if he will make a statement. [308323]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* My colleagues, officials and I discuss a range of issues with HEFCE and the Research Councils regularly.

Both HEFCE and the Research Councils recognise the breadth of ways in which impact is delivered and the long time horizons often required. Both understand impact broadly to include, for example, benefits to the economy, society, public policy, and quality of life.

The UK has a world-class research base of which we can be rightly proud: second only to the US across a broad range of disciplines and the most productive research base in the G8. Government funding for the research base has doubled in real terms since 1997 and it is right that we recognise the impact of excellent research and remove barriers to harvesting the benefits it delivers to the nation.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Research Councils undertake complementary work to pursue that objective. HEFCE recently consulted on proposals for the Research Excellence Framework (REF), and Research Councils have recently introduced impact statements to grant application forms.

The REF will recognise and reward university departments with a track record of delivering impacts from excellent research in the past. Research Council impact statements encourage researchers to consider the potential impact of their work when applying for grants.

Greater emphasis on impact poses no threat to fundamental research. The primary criterion of both peer review and retrospective research assessment remains research excellence.

Students

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students in higher education have received payments in respect of *(a)* tuition fee loans, *(b)* maintenance loans, *(c)* grants for living costs, *(d)* bursaries and scholarships and *(e)* extra help for students with children or adult dependants in (i) Vale of York constituency, (ii) North Yorkshire and (iii) England in each of the last three years; and what the monetary value was of each such type of payment in each area in each such year. [307414]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is in the following tables.

Student support North Yorkshire[1] academic year 2006/07 to 2008/09

	Students	*Value (£)*
2006/07		
Tuition Fee Loan	6,950	11,905,000
Maintenance Loan	9,330	35,369,000
Adult Dependant Grant	40	92,000
Childcare	50	105,000
Maintenance and other grants[2]	12,220	8,360,000
2007/08		
Tuition Fee Loan	8,020	17,955,000
Maintenance Loan	9,470	36,662,000
Adult Dependant Grant	50	100,000
Childcare	50	118,000
Maintenance and other grants[2]	13,190	9,799,000
2008/09		
Tuition Fee Loan	8,960	23,958,000
Maintenance Loan	9,780	39,196,000
Adult Dependant Grant	60	134,000
Childcare	70	208,000
Maintenance and other grants	14,500	11,779,000

[1] Student numbers rounded to nearest 10, value of support rounded to nearest £1,000.

[2] Includes Maintenance Grant, Higher Education Grant, Special Support Grant, Parental Learning Allowance, Travel Grant and Disabled Student Allowance.

Source:
Student Loans Company

Student support[1] England academic years 2006/07 to 2008/09

	Students (thousand)	*Value (£ million)*
2006/07		
Tuition Fee Loan	397.3	807.7
Maintenance Loan	728.1	2,613.4
Adult Dependant Grant	6.4	14.1
Childcare	8.3	27.1
Grants for Maintenance[2]	320.9	471.2
2007/08		
Tuition Fee Loan	553.5	1,388.6
Maintenance Loan	746.2	2,630.7
Adult Dependant Grant	6.9	15.6
Childcare	9.6	31.2
Grants for Maintenance[2]	395.2	713.2
2008/09		
Tuition Fee Loan	696.9	1,981.1
Maintenance Loan	771.5	2,717.0
Adult Dependant Grant	7.8	18.0
Childcare	9.8	36.1
Grants for Maintenance[2]	495.7	1,025.0

[1] Student numbers rounded to nearest 1,000, value of support rounded to nearest £ million.

[2] Maintenance Grant and Higher Education Grant.

Source:

Student Loans Company

The information requested on bursaries and scholarships is not available centrally as they are the responsibility of Higher Education Institutions. Reliable information is not available at constituency level. Complete information for the current academic year 2009/10 is not yet available, and will be available in late 2010 when a Statistical First Release on Student Support will be published on the Student Loans Company website.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students in higher education did not receive payments in respect of *(a)* tuition fee loans, *(b)* maintenance loans, *(c)* grants for living costs, *(d)* bursaries and scholarships and *(e)* extra help for students with children or adult dependants to which they were entitled before the commencement of their course in (i) Vale of York constituency, (ii) North Yorkshire and (iii) England in each of the last three years; and what the monetary value was of each such type of payment not made to students from each area in each such year before the commencement of their courses. [307415]

Mr. Lammy: Tuition fee loans are not paid before commencement of the course. The information requested on bursaries and scholarships is not available centrally as they are the responsibility of higher education institutions. The other information requested in the answer cannot be produced except at disproportionate cost.

Students: Loans

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students from Chesterfield constituency have received student loans for university courses in each year since 1996-97. [308995]

Mr. Lammy: Reliable information to answer this question is not available at constituency level.

Students: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students resident in the Milton Keynes area *(a)* attended university courses and *(b)* received student loans to attend university courses in each year since 1997. [308089]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on enrolments from Milton Keynes local authority is shown in table 1. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Table 1: Enrolments[1] from Milton Keynes local authority, UK higher education institutions[2], academic year 1997/98 to 2007/08

Academic year	*Enrolments*
1997/98	3,745
1998/99	3,935
1999/2000	4,005
2000/01	4,020
2001/02	4,250
2002/03	4,400
2003/04	4,650
2004/05	4,880
2005/06	5,055
2006/07	5,185
2007/08	5,250

[1] Covers enrolments to both full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

[2] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in its data across the time series.

Note:

Figures are based on a snapshot count as at 1 December to maintain consistency across the time series and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Data from the Student Loans Company on the number of student loan borrowers from Milton Keynes are shown in table 2.

Table 2: Income contingent student loan borrowers, 2001/02 to 2008/09[1]

Academic year	*Students receiving loans*
2001/02	2,500
2002/03	2,700
2003/04	3,000
2004/05	3,100
2005/06	3,300
2006/07	3,400
2007/08	3,600
2008/09	3,800

[1] Consistent data are not available before 2001/02. Figures cover income contingent loans for maintenance and tuition fees. Older mortgage style loans are excluded.

Source:

Student Loans Company.

Data from the two sources (HESA and SLC) are not directly comparable because certain students and courses (for example postgraduate courses) included in table 1 do not attract student support. Additionally, table 2 provides those who have taken out loans, but does not include those who may have received student support in the form of a grant such as students from lower income families or those who study part-time courses.

UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding has been allocated to the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology in each year since its formation. [308792]

Mr. Lammy: The UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology was set up in September 2004 by the Department for Trade and Industry, subsequently the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and now the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

Funding has been allocated for each year as follows:

Government funding of the UKRC[1]

	£ million
2004-05	1.39
2005-06	1.74
2006-07	2.296
2007-08	2.055
2008-09	2.522
2009-10	2.427
2010-11	2.453

[1] Variously DTI/DFES/DIUS/BIS

Unemployment

Michael Gove: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what methodology his Department used to determine the number of people not in education, employment or training expected to start courses in January as part of the January Guarantee. [307324]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

We are determined to ensure that every 16 and 17-year-old who is not in education, employment or training (NEET) is given an opportunity to engage in learning so that they can develop the skills they will need for the upturn. The January Guarantee will ensure that all 16 and 17-year-olds who are NEET in January 2010 have the offer of an entry to employment place.

Information provided by Connexions services shows that there were around 60,000 16 and 17-year-olds NEET in January 2009. Many of these young people will already have a job or a place in learning to start in January, while there are others whose personal circumstances will prevent a return to learning at this time.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

British Educational Communications and Technology Agency: Expenditure

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much BECTA has cost in each year since 2007; and if he will make a statement. [307593]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The funding allocation from the Department for Children, Schools and Families to British Educational Communication and Technology Agency (BECTA) for 2007-08 was £38,394,000 and for 2008-09 was £61,550,000.

The funding allocations are from DCSF and other Government grants for expenditure to support the effective use of technology across the education and skills sectors.

BTEC Diplomas

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many 16-year-olds completed a BTEC First Diploma in each subject in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [306621]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following tables shows the number of 16-year-olds in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* England who completed a BTEC First Diploma in each subject in each of the last five years for which information is available.

BTEC First Diploma awards achieved by those with an academic age of 16 in Leeds West constituency, 2003/08

	Year in which qualification was achieved				
Qualification title: Edexcel level 2 BTEC First Diploma:	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
For ICT Practitioners	0	0	0	0	0
For IT Practitioners (General)	0	0	0	0	0
For IT Practitioners (ICT Systems Support)	0	0	0	0	0
For IT Practitioners (Software Development)	0	0	0	0	0
In Agriculture	0	0	0	0	0
In Animal Care	0	0	0	0	0
In Applied Science	0	0	0	0	0
In Art and Design	0	0	0	0	0
In Business	0	0	0	0	0
In Caring	0	0	0	0	0
In Children's Care, Learning and Development	0	0	0	*	*
In Construction	0	0	0	0	0
In Countryside and Environment	0	0	0	0	0
In Design	0	0	0	0	0
In Early Years	0	0	*	0	0
In Electronics	0	0	0	0	0
In Engineering	0	0	0	*	5
In Fish Husbandry	0	0	0	0	0
In Floristry	0	0	0	0	0
In Front Line Services	0	0	0	0	0
In Health and Social Care	0	0	0	8	9
In Horse Care	0	0	0	0	0
In Horticulture	0	0	0	0	0
In Hospitality	0	0	0	0	0
In Land-based Technology	0	0	0	0	0
In Logistics	0	0	0	0	0
In Manufacturing Engineering	0	0	*	0	0
In Media	0	0	0	0	0
In Music	0	0	0	0	0
In Operations and Maintenance Engineering	0	0	0	0	0
In Performing Arts	0	0	0	0	0
In Public Services	0	0	0	0	0
In Retail	0	0	0	0	0
In Sport	0	0	0	0	0
In Sport and Exercise Sciences	0	0	0	0	0
In Travel and Tourism	0	0	0	0	*

BTEC First Diploma awards achieved by those with an academic age of 16 in Leeds West constituency, 2003/08

Qualification title: Edexcel level 2 BTEC First Diploma:	*Year in which qualification was achieved* 2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
In Vehicle Service and Technology	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	*	14	18

BTEC First Diploma awards achieved by those with an academic age of 16 in West Yorkshire, 2003/08

Qualification title: Edexcel level 2 BTEC First Diploma:	*Year in which qualification was achieved* 2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
For ICT Practitioners	0	0	0	112	164
For IT Practitioners (General)	7	10	28	0	0
For IT Practitioners (ICT Systems Support)	*	7	20	0	0
For IT Practitioners (Software Development)	0	6	6	0	0
In Agriculture	0	0	0	0	0
In Animal Care	49	55	78	58	59
In Applied Science	0	0	0	30	36
In Art and Design	0	23	49	64	89
In Business	10	54	87	127	181
In Caring	27	53	45	0	0
In Children's Care, Learning and Development	0	0	0	45	57
In Construction	6	9	25	45	52
In Countryside and Environment	0	0	0	0	0
In Design	20	17	7	*	0
In Early Years	32	23	52	0	0
In Electronics	0	0	0	0	0
In Engineering	0	0	0	21	25
In Fish Husbandry	0	0	0	0	0
In Floristry	0	0	0	0	0
In Front Line Services	0	0	0	0	0
In Health and Social Care	0	0	25	191	200
In Horse Care	5	11	*	10	*
In Horticulture	0	4	*	*	0
In Hospitality	0	0	0	0	*
In Land-based Technology	0	0	0	0	0
In Logistics	0	0	0	0	0
In Manufacturing Engineering	19	13	16	0	0
In Media	5	7	10	21	25
In Music	0	0	0	31	48
In Operations and Maintenance Engineering	*	0	4	0	0
In Performing Arts	55	81	87	67	67
In Public Services	75	82	106	106	97
In Retail	0	0	0	0	0
In Sport	37	45	47	115	121
In Sport and Exercise Sciences	24	39	29	0	0
In Travel and Tourism	6	55	54	45	50
In Vehicle Service and Technology	4	0	0	0	0
Total	385	594	779	1,091	1,276

BTEC First Diploma awards achieved by those with an academic age of 16 in England, 2003/08

Qualification title: Edexcel level 2 BTEC First Diploma:	*Year in which qualification was achieved* 2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
For ICT Practitioners	0	0	0	2,847	3,456
For IT Practitioners (General)	598	1,169	1,465	7	0
For IT Practitioners (ICT Systems Support)	107	207	332	0	0
For IT Practitioners (Software Development)	188	224	297	*	0
In Agriculture	75	72	102	98	103
In Animal Care	795	906	951	1,079	1,176
In Applied Science	87	208	346	658	782
In Art and Design	0	521	1,743	2,906	3,274
In Business	307	949	1,992	3,515	4,790
In Caring	561	1,018	385	*	0
In Children's Care, Learning and Development	0	0	0	803	991
In Construction	50	130	338	523	532
In Countryside and Environment	79	92	152	148	162
In Design	587	790	561	3	0
In Early Years	439	628	936	7	0
In Electronics	130	156	240	0	0
In Engineering	0	0	0	1,020	1,205
In Fish Husbandry	27	47	42	42	50
In Floristry	*	8	14	18	23
In Front Line Services	0	0	0	0	0
In Health and Social Care	0	0	1,524	3296	4,058
In Horse Care	245	284	258	279	289
In Horticulture	138	108	156	172	182
In Hospitality	0	16	88	143	169
In Land-based Technology	0	0	0	33	34
In Logistics	0	0	4	0	20
In Manufacturing Engineering	479	556	690	7	11
In Media	232	868	1,182	1,501	1,718
In Music	0	0	0	822	1,001
In Operations and Maintenance Engineering	71	89	113	0	*
In Performing Arts	1,644	2,048	2,425	1,735	1,737
In Public Services	1,674	2,176	2,563	2,892	3,310
In Retail	*	27	111	139	241
In Sport	1,489	2,248	2,827	4,147	4,246
In Sport and Exercise Sciences	630	604	601	7	*
In Travel and Tourism	231	933	1361	1,595	1,981
In Vehicle Service and Technology	216	196	205	245	290
Total	11,086	17,278	24,004	30,689	35,843

* = Figures less than 3 have been suppressed.

Source:

National Information System for Vocational Qualifications.

Children: Social Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the cost of conducting a serious case review. [307266]

Dawn Primarolo: The costs of conducting a serious case review are not held centrally. It is the responsibility of each Local Safeguarding Children Board to undertake a serious case review where appropriate. The costs will vary considerably depending on the complexity of the case and the cost of the independent overview author.

Christmas

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305646]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was created on 28 June 2007. Since then four Christmas trees have been purchased from a sustainable source at a total cost of £2,100. This included delivery and installation costs. The supplier has advised that for every tree that is cut down, another is grown. The trees are shredded and recycled.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [306148]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The Department for Children, Schools and Families budgeted £550 for Christmas trees in 2009.

Departmental Buildings

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many smart meters are in use in his Department's main building; and *(a)* when and *(b)* at what cost such meters were installed. [303924]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: At the present time no smart meters are in use in the Department for Children, Schools Families main building. However, funding has been secured from the Department for Energy and Climate Change for the installation of sub-metering which will enable us to identify where the most electricity is being consumed so that it can be targeted in the future.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305690]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Expenditure in respect of works and refurbishments to Ministers' offices in the last year was £19,876.00. This follows the appointment of an additional Minister to the Department in June 2009, which required a new office to be created.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305873]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: To provide a response would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Hotels

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what expenditure his Department incurred on hotel accommodation in 2008-09. [301388]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was established in June 2007. Expenditure on hotel accommodation during 2008-09 was £1,510,651.

Departmental Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* individuals other than ministerial colleagues and officials of his Department and *(b)* organisations he met in an official capacity in the week commencing 9 November 2009. [301165]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In its response to a report by the Public Administration Select Committee "Lobbying: Access and influence in Whitehall", the Government agreed to publish on-line, on a quarterly basis, information about ministerial meetings with outside interest groups. Information for the period 1 October 2009 to 31 December 2009 will be published by Departments as soon as the information is ready.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses have been paid to officials in his Department in each of the last three years; and what expenditure his Department has incurred on such bonuses in each year. [301302]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The wages/salary bill for 2006-07 was £132.4 million of which non-consolidated performance payments represented 1.7 per cent. All employees are eligible for non-consolidated performance payments, subject to strict criteria in line with the Government's policy on public sector pay. Senior civil service non-consolidated payments are determined as part of a central performance management framework managed by the Cabinet Office. Payments for other grades are subject to the pay remit process and reflect previous pay settlements. Non-consolidated performance payments have to be re-earned each year and do not add to future pay bill costs (e.g. pensions) and are an integral element of the reward package for staff.

The information for 2006/07 refers to the former Department for Education and Skills.

	Number of non-consolidated payments	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2006-07	1,235	1.9

The wages/salary bill for 2007-08 was £111.9 million of which non-consolidated performance payments represented 1.9 per cent.

	Number of non-consolidated payments	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2007-08	1,669	2.1

The wages/salary bill for 2008-09 was £111.8 million of which non-consolidated performance payments represented 1.9 per cent.

	Number of non-consolidated payments	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2008-09	1,403	1.9

Departmental Training

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many overseas training courses were attended by his Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305902]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We hold records on training provided centrally. In the 12 months to the end of November 2009, one employee attended a training course where an element of it was delivered overseas. This was a leadership development programme at the National School of Government which consisted of six modules of which five were delivered locally in the UK. The total cost was £14,500, with the overseas element of the programme amounting to £4,350.

A number of training courses are agreed locally and a detailed check of those records to see if any involved an element of overseas travel would incur disproportionate cost.

Driving

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which his Department is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302171]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has travel policy in place for staff which is accessible via the Department's intranet. This guidance states clear roles and responsibilities for managers and staff. The responses to the questions raised are:

ix(a) Mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff hold valid driving licences for any vehicles the Department is responsible for. (The Department does not own any vehicles.)

(b) Mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who use their own vehicles for official business must have valid driving licences and insurance. Before using their own vehicles for official travel, staff must complete an application form which, together with copies of their Motor Vehicle Insurance Certificate, MOT certificate (if appropriate) and a business case signed by at least a Deputy Director, is sent to the Professional Services and Commodities Category Unit for approval.

(c) Road safety guidance for staff. The Department has produced a "Safe Driving Policy" booklet (available via the intranet) which provides road safety guidance. It is expected that compliance to the departmental guidelines is observed by staff.

(d) Steps to monitor compliance to the guidance. Staff have the responsibility to ensure compliance with the guidance.

(e) Requirements to report accidents. All accidents associated with hire companies are brought to the attention of the Professional Services and Commodities Category Unit for investigation.

(f) Accident reports are investigated. All notified motor vehicle accidents are thoroughly investigated.

Education Maintenance Allowance

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to extend the education maintenance allowance to age groups other than those currently eligible; and if he will make a statement. [307442]

Mr. Iain Wright: The policy intention of education maintenance allowance is to encourage more young people aged 16 to 19 from low-income families to participate in post-compulsory learning. We do not have plans to extend the eligible age group.

Adult learners (aged 19-plus) can apply for the adult learning grant (ALG). This pays up to £30 per week, during term time, to those on low incomes undertaking full-time learning for their first full level 2 or first full level 3 qualification. Young people in receipt of EMA can move on to ALG when they become 19 where they remain in learning.

Educational Institutions: Vetting

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what sanctions will be taken against language schools which use host families for foreign students who have not undergone vetting and barring scheme or Criminal Records Bureau checks; [306472]

(2) how many representations he has received from language schools on the application of the vetting and barring scheme and Criminal Records Bureau checks for host families for foreign children in the last six months. [306473]

Dawn Primarolo: There are currently no requirements on language schools to conduct Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks on the individuals they engage to host foreign students.

Acting as host parents for a student at a language school is regulated activity under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. Engaging in regulated activity will normally require registration with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). However, as announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 50WS, in his response to the Sir Roger Singleton's report "Drawing the Line" on the vetting and barring scheme, we shall lift the requirement for registration for exchange visits where the student's parents accept responsibility for the selection of the host family, the host parents are unpaid volunteers, and the visit lasts less than 28 days.

Where these conditions are not met, the requirement for registration of the host parents will remain in place. Where the requirement for registration applies, a language school that uses host parents without checking their ISA registration status would commit an offence under section 11 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. Under section 11(9), the maximum penalty for this offence is a fine of up to level 5 on the standard scale (currently £5,000).

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has not received any representations from language schools on this issue during the last six months.

Engagement Programme Funding

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of 14 to 19 engagement programme funding is allocated to *(a)* schools, *(b)* colleges and *(c)* other organisations in 2009/10; and if he will make a statement. [308178]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Key Stage 4 engagement programme is a locally shaped and managed initiative and local authorities have developed a range of models for delivering the programme in their area. DCSF funding for 2009/10 totals £19,334,000 and this is used in different ways by the 142 local authorities involved. Detailed data breaking down how each local authority is deploying this resource are not kept centrally and therefore it is not possible to provide the overview sought by the hon. Member.

GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils of each ethnic group at the end of Key Stage 4 who were *(a)* eligible and *(b)* not eligible for free school meals achieved five A* grades at GCSE including English and mathematics, excluding equivalents, in each year since 1997. [309184]

Mr. Coaker: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Home Education

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he has received any reports of *(a)* abuse and *(b)* poor educational practice in the home educated environment in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [308176]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department collected statistical information relating to safeguarding and educational concerns about home educated children that can be found at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/ete/independentreviewofhomeeducation/irhomeeducation/

Some reports of specific instances of abuse or poor educational practice were made to Graham Badman and DCSF as part of the background evidence collected for the Review of Elective Home Education in England.

Hotels

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305669]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Expenditure on hotels on behalf on individuals is not held separately. The following table shows the cumulative spend for Ministers, special advisers and civil servants for each of the last five years.

Financial years	*Hotels (£)*
2005	1,161,915
2006	1,039,714
2007	1,006,349
2008	1,191,780
2009	1,510,651

Travel by Ministers, civil servants and special advisers is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code and the civil service management code respectively.

Independent Safeguarding Authority

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what communication there has been between the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit and the Independent Safeguarding Authority since July 2009. [307852]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU) does not routinely communicate with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). The ISA has been asked to join the Partnership Network, a broad coalition of partners, including key voluntary sector and professional stakeholders, which has been established to work with the NSDU to pursue specific issues impacting on effective front-line safeguarding practice.

Sir Roger Singleton provides advice and challenge to the NSDU in his independent capacity as chief adviser on the safety of children.

Personal Social and Health Education

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether education about homosexual relationships is a compulsory part of the school curriculum for *(a)* primary school and *(b)* secondary school pupils. [304224]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Under existing legislation, secondary schools are required by law to provide sex education, but there is no requirement for primary schools to provide sex education. Both primary and secondary schools are also required to deliver the statutory science curriculum, which includes age-appropriate information on human biology. In addition we expect schools to provide a much broader programme of sex and relationships education (SRE) through well planned and non-statutory personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. As part of this programme schools should teach about all types of relationships that exist within society, including homosexual relationships.

SRE should be taught gradually, so that learning can be built upon year-by-year in a way that is appropriate to the age and maturity of each child. For example, SRE in primary schools will address issues of differences and bullying.

We have announced our intention to legislate to make PSHE education, including SRE, a statutory subject within the national curriculum at key stages 1-4.

Provisions are included within the Children, Schools and Families Bill which will give effect to this change. Further information is available in the written ministerial statement by the Secretary of State on 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 49-52WS.

Pupils: Epilepsy

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will produce an action plan to improve the results achieved at school by children with epilepsy; [307918]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with epilepsy representative groups to improve educational outcomes for children with epilepsy. [307919]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Government are committed to closing the gap in educational achievement between children with special educational needs and their peers.

The Department for Children Schools and Families and the Department of Health are currently engaged with key stakeholders, including those from organisations representing epilepsy, in developing revised guidance to schools on how to support children and young people with medical needs. The guidance will support schools to develop policies in relation to managing the health needs of children and young people: this will include advice to teachers and support staff on how to administer medicines. We have a stakeholder meeting scheduled for January at which we will discuss how the organisations representing the conditions can enhance the guidance.

In the Children's Plan progress report, we announced £31 million for the two-year Achievement for All project to improve outcomes for all children and young people with special educational needs and disability which would include children with epilepsy who have additional needs. The project is taking place in around 450 schools across 10 local authorities for two years from September 2009 until September 2011.

Pupils: Religious Freedom

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has made an assessment of the implications for his Department's policies of the European Court of Human Rights ruling in the case of Lautsi *v* Italy on educational institutions in England. [308765]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We are currently considering the implications of this ruling but our early conclusions are that we believe that the circumstances in Italy are clearly different from those in England and that such a ruling would have no impact on our schools provision. This is because the concerns of the court in this case, which lead to the breach of human rights conclusion, were around the lack of pluralism in the Italian education system—that there was no choice for non-Christian parents/pupils in Italy since every classroom in every school must be adorned with a crucifix—as set out in a Royal Decree. This is certainly not the case in England where there is no such universal display of religious imagery. Parental choice is a key feature of our education system and the majority of schools are maintained schools of no particular religion but there is also the choice available of faith schools catering for many different faiths.

School Meals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the average cost of providing a school meal in the latest period for which figures are available. [308977]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect this information. However, the Fourth Annual Survey of Take-up of School Lunches in England, published in November 2009 by the School Food Trust and the Local Authority Caterers Association, gives average lunch prices in 2008/09 of £1.77 in primary schools, and £1.88 in secondary schools. Information on the average cost of providing a school meal is not collected by the survey.

Schools

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools were (i) opened and (ii) closed in each region in each year since 1997. [305058]

Mr. Coaker: The information is provided in the following tables.

Source:

EduBase 2

Phase of education and year of opening

	Middle Deemed Primary							*Primary*													
Government Office Region	*1997*	*2002*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Grand total*
East Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	7	3	26	9	2	10	8	8	11	10	1	100
East of England	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	6	16	13	8	13	11	11	8	24	13	5	138
London	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	11	20	21	16	22	14	16	9	7	7	8	6	4	165
North East	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	3	6	3	10	10	7	6	14	4	5	3	80

Phase of education and year of opening

Government Office Region	*Middle Deemed Primary*							*Primary*														
	1997	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Grand total
North West	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	11	16	7	17	23	20	15	16	10	16	12	7	183
South East	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	2	14	12	16	9	12	21	13	13	19	18	4	164
South West	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	4	13	15	15	10	4	9	5	17	18	13	12	12	152
West Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	8	13	16	8	8	12	17	17	13	31	4	11	165
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	9	13	8	15	10	11	12	8	15	5	6	121
Grand total	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	63	70	104	104	123	100	104	106	107	99	141	85	53	1,268

Phase of education and year of opening

Government Office Region	*MDS*				*Secondary*													
	2001	2004	2006	2008	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Grand total
East Midlands	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	11
East of England	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	3	3	—	—	12
London	—	—	—	—	2	2	8	3	3	4	1	2	1	1	2	—	—	29
North East	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	12
North West	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	4	3	2	1	3	3	9	3	1	6	39
South East	—	—	—	1	2	2	3	1	3	2	2	1	2	—	—	—	1	20
South West	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	1	1	1	3	2	—	—	13
West Midlands	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	1	14
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	3	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	13
Grand total	2	1	1	1	9	7	18	15	21	12	9	11	8	17	19	1	11	163

MDS = Middle Deemed Secondary Schools

Phase of education and year of closures

Government Office Region	*Middle Deemed Primary*										
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
East Midlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East of England	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	12	3
London	—	—	—	—	—	3		1	1	1	1
North East	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North West	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South East	2	3	3	3	1	—	8	—	—	—	5
South West	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	1	—	1
West Midlands	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire and the Humber	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand total	4	3	3	6	4	3	9	5	2	13	10

Government Office Region	*Primary*													
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Grand total
East Midlands	8	4	7	7	38	16	11	11	28	18	27	30	10	215
East of England	2	16	7	23	29	13	27	20	25	11	35	27	5	256
London	30	38	41	26	37	27	30	23	12	14	19	15	18	337
North East	9	13	7	12	12	22	21	17	14	26	13	20	10	196
North West	53	33	43	21	43	62	42	41	49	41	39	42	20	529
South East	24	7	21	15	28	17	16	28	22	37	33	34	7	314
South West	8	37	19	24	13	14	12	12	32	35	34	24	27	301

	Primary													
Government Office Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Grand total*
West Midlands	20	15	30	31	21	22	25	39	36	36	48	11	24	360
Yorkshire and the Humber	14	8	19	23	23	31	34	26	24	28	32	18	14	286
Grand total	168	171	194	182	244	224	208	217	242	246	280	221	135	2,794

	Phase of education and year of closure										
	Middle Deemed Secondary										
Government Office Region	*1997*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
East Midlands	2	—	9	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—
East of England	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
London	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North East	—	3	2	5	1	2	3	2	—	4	3
North West	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South East	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	5	2
South West	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	11	1	—
Yorkshire and the Humber	7	57	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Grand total	9	60	18	7	11	21	8	3	11	11	5

	Secondary													
Government Office Region	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Grand total*
East Midlands	4	1	8	3	6	1	4	6	1	—	—	8	10	78
East of England	2	3	2	2	—	1	3	—	—	5	9	5	10	46
London	—	1	6	—	1	4	3	3	6	7	6	8	7	54
North East	—	2	3	2	4	5	5	—	—	—	4	2	7	59
North West	—	2	6	9	7	5	2	4	5	16	8	16	22	102
South East	1	3	4	3	4	3	3	1	2	1	7	8	12	69
South West	—	—	—	4	—	4	1	3	1	1	3	4	5	34
West Midlands	—	3	—	—	4	3	2	—	1	4	10	7	9	60
Yorkshire and the Humber	1	1	3	4	4	1	—	4	2	6	8	3	14	116
Grand total	8	16	32	27	30	27	23	21	18	40	55	61	96	618

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost of undertaking an assessment for special educational needs. [307260]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department has not made an estimate of the average cost of a statutory assessment of a child's special educational needs (SEN). However, in 2002 the Audit Commission published a report "Statutory assessment and statements of SEN: in need of review?" which estimated the overall cost of producing an SEN statement, including the assessment, was £2,500.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of schoolteachers earn more than £18,000 a year. [306336]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not available in the format requested because records are incomplete for part-time and unqualified teachers.

All full-time qualified teachers in service in local authority maintained schools earn more than £18,000 per annum. The minimum salary for qualified teachers in England and Wales excluding the London area is £21,102 and for unqualified teachers £15,461.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth: Health Services

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 113-14WS, on the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting; if he will publish the Commonwealth Health Compact agreement; whether under the agreement Commonwealth citizens who are visitors and lawfully in the UK will be entitled to free hospital care and treatment if admission to hospital was non-elective and the need for admission and treatment was unforeseen before the individual's entry into the UK; and if he will make a statement. [309548]

Mr. Michael Foster: The commitments made in Commonwealth Health Compact agreed at the Commonwealth Heads of Governments meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009 are set out in the paragraph 93 of the official communiqué of the meeting. In the Compact Heads of Government:

> Called on donor countries to deliver existing commitments for financing in health and identify ways to increase international resources;
>
> Welcomed the steps taken by low-income countries towards universal access to health services, making them free at the point of use and urged further concerted action;
>
> Support the role of civil society to advocate for, support and contribute to universal coverage of basic health care.

The compact focuses on efforts to support developing countries to meet the domestic health needs of their own populations, particularly by strengthening health systems and removing financial barriers to the poor in accessing to domestic health services. The compact is not relevant to and makes no commitments on the provision of health services by any country to visiting foreign nationals.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308831]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) cancelled one conference within the last three financial years, 2006-07 to 2008-09. The conference was titled 'Tackling Overseas Bribery' and was scheduled to take place from 3-4 September 2008. The cost of cancellation was £7,500.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307808]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has sponsored no secondary legislation that has created or abolished a criminal offence since 1 May 2008.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many employees of his Department have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308516]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) holds details of criminal convictions on classified individual personal security files. We do not maintain a central record of the number of staff convicted of criminal offences.

HEALTH

AIDS: North West

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were diagnosed with AIDS in (i) Chorley, (ii) Lancashire and (ii) the North West in each of the last five years. [308407]

Gillian Merron: There were no reported new HIV diagnoses or first AIDS diagnoses in the local authority area of Chorley between 2004 and 2008.

The information requested relating to Lancashire and the North West is shown in the following table.

Area of diagnosis	*Report type*	*Sex*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
North West	New HIV diagnoses	Males	426	460	445	385	407
		Females	220	249	194	196	206
	First AIDS diagnoses	Males	71	68	60	75	49
		Females	35	17	23	27	12
Lancashire[1]	New HIV diagnoses	Males	67	83	56	44	56
		Females	20	16	10	19	21
	First AIDS diagnoses	Males	13	9	13	17	14
		Females	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5

[1] Does not include sites situated in either Greater Manchester or Merseyside.

Notes:

1. Diagnoses are from reports received to end June 2009. Numbers will rise as further reports are received.
2. Data include individuals who have an existing infection as well as those who have a newly acquired infection and therefore the data do not present incidence of infection.
3. The area in which an individual is diagnosed is not necessarily the area of residence.
4. AIDS diagnoses relate to a person's first diagnosis of an AIDS defining illness. Subsequent diagnoses are not recorded.

Source:

Health Protection Agency.

Alcoholism: Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of alcohol-related hospital admissions in each strategic health authority area were repeat admissions in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [308250]

Gillian Merron: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Babies: Screening

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what professional qualifications are required for a health practitioner in the NHS to perform the Ortolani and Barlow manoeuvre at the newborn and six to eight week physical examination. [308274]

Ann Keen: Registered medical practitioners undertake these examinations. They are most commonly done by general practitioners or paediatricians. They will have had additional training, but no further qualifications are required.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline, "Routine postnatal care of women and their babies", states that within 72 hours of birth and at six to eight weeks the baby's hips should be checked using the Barlow and Ortolani manoeuvres.

The guideline also advises that all health care professionals who care for mothers and babies should work within the relevant competencies developed by Skills for Health:

www.skillsforhealth.org.uk

Relevant health care professionals should also have demonstrated competency and sufficient ongoing clinical experience in undertaking maternal and newborn physical examinations and recognising abnormalities.

Bowel Cancer: Screening

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to increase participation rates in bowel cancer screening in *(a)* Waltham Forest, *(b)* Redbridge, *(c)* London and *(d)* England. [309317]

Ann Keen: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for screening services, including the promotion of the NHS bowel screening programme. We would expect those areas with low bowel screening uptake rates to develop targeted programmes to tackle this locally. NHS London has advised that both Redbridge and Waltham Forest PCTs are working to address the issue of low uptake among their local eligible populations.

As the screening programme was implemented in local areas, NHS cancer screening programmes sent out an information pack to all local general practitioners (GPs). As well as explaining how the programme works, the packs contained promotional information, including posters for GPs to use to promote the programme in their own practices.

The National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative, launched in November 2008, is working with NHS cancer screening programmes on key messages and awareness programmes to improve screening uptake, particularly in deprived groups.

Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust: Nurses

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses were employed in the area covered by Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [308658]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the numbers of qualified nursing staff for the organisations specified.

	Number (headcount) as at 30 September each year	
	2002	*2008*
Total specified organisations		
All qualified nursing staff	2,709	3,098
Qualified hospital and community health services (HCHS) nursing staff	2,545	2,945
General practitioner (GP) practice nurses	164	153
of which:		
Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT)		
All qualified nursing staff	794	937
Qualified HCHS nursing staff	630	784
GP practice nurses	164	153
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust		
All qualified nursing staff	1,915	2,161
Qualified HCHS nursing staff	1,915	2,161
GP practice nurses	n/a	n/a

n/a = not applicable

Notes:

1. Due to organisation changes it is not possible to provide comparable data for the area covered by Central Lancashire PCT with any degree of accuracy prior to 2002.

2. Data Quality: Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-medical Workforce Census

Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust: Waiting Lists

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for *(a)* an in-patient and *(b)* an out-patient in the Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust was in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [308656]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the median in-patient waiting time for elective admission patients still waiting in all specialties for the time period 1997-2009 for commissioner organisations in the central Lancashire area.

Organisation	*Waiting time (weeks)*
Month ending March 1997	
North West Lancashire Health Authority (HA)	11.9
South Lancashire HA	15.4
Month Ending October 2009	
Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT)	2.8

Notes:

1. Figures are shown for organisations that existed at the time

2. In-patient waiting times are measured from decision to admit by the consultant to admission to hospital.

3. The figures show the median waiting times for patients still waiting for admission at the end of the period stated.

4. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.

5. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.

Source:

Department of Health waiting list collections QF01 and MMRCOM

The following table shows the median out-patient waiting time for a first out-patient appointment for patients seen in the year in all specialties for the time period 1997-2007 for commissioner organisations in the central Lancashire area.

Organisation	*Waiting time (weeks)*
Financial year 1997-98	
South Lancashire HA	7.5
North West Lancashire HA	6.0
Financial year 2007-08	
Central Lancashire PCT	4.5

The following table shows the median out-patient waiting time for a first out-patient appointment for patients still waiting at the period end in all specialties for the time period 2005-09 for commissioner organisations in the central Lancashire area.

Organisation	*Waiting time (weeks)*
Month ending March 2005	
Chorley and South Ribble PCT	4.7
West Lancashire PCT	5.3
Preston PCT	4.6
Month ending October 2009	
Central Lancashire PCT	2.6

Notes:

1. Figures are shown for organisations that existed at the time.
2. Out-patient waiting times are measured from referral by the GP to first out-patient appointment to the consultant.
3. From 1997-98 all time bands for out-patients seen were first collected so only average waiting first out-patient times can be made from this point in time.
4. The out-patient seen figures relate to the average wait for patients seen during the whole of each year except for 2007-08 where figures relate to quarters 1 and 2 combined.
5. The last time these data were collected for each specialty was for period ending September 2007.
6. From 2004-05 all time bands for out-patients not seen were first collected so only average waiting first out-patient times on a waiting basis can be made from this point in time.
7. Median waiting times are calculated from aggregate data, rather than patient level data, and therefore are only estimates of the position on average waits.
8. In particular, specialties with low numbers waiting are prone to fluctuations in the median. This should be taken into account when interpreting the data.
9. Historically, since 1997, we collected out-patient waiting times based on numbers seen during the quarter (the QM08 return). In addition, we collected data on a 'still waiting' basis in our monthly return alongside our in-patient waiting times figures. However, unlike the in-patient figures, we did not collect the full waiting list on out-patients, just the long waiters. Therefore, it was not possible to calculate the average wait on this basis.
10. Since 2004-05, we collected the full out-patient waiting list, hence we could start calculating average waits on the same basis as in-patients from this date. We have since phased out the out-patient 'seen' collection, so we now can only use the 'still waiting' or 'not seen' figures.
11. The result of this is that average waits appear lower on the 'still waiting' basis simply because this is collected as a snapshot of patients waiting time at the end of the month before they have been seen. Therefore, the averages appear lower, but we have provided both sets so that users can see the effect and trend.

Source:

Department of Health waiting list collections QM08R and MMRCOM

Community Health Services: Medical Equipment

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* research and *(b)* consultation his Department undertook before instructing local authorities to become the accrediting bodies for the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchairs Services retail model; and how many retailers have registered with local authorities for the purpose of providing such services; [309283]

(2) how many retailers have registered with the Community Equipment Dispensing Accreditation Board; [309284]

(3) how many organisations are using prescriptions for wheelchairs under the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchairs Services retail model. [309285]

Phil Hope: The Department has carried out a review of the developing retail marketplace and obtained feedback from the five local authorities and health partners who implemented a retail model by April 2009. Results show that most authorities prefer to undertake accreditation and monitoring of retailers within their localities using existing supplier vetting procedures. The Department does not collect information on how many retailers have registered with local authorities for the purpose of providing equipment.

The Department has not collected information on the number of retailers who may have received accreditation through the Community Equipment Dispensing Accreditation Board, and the Department did not renew its endorsement of national accreditation after 30 September 2009.

The prescription within the retail model has been designed for simple community equipment aids to daily living and does not include a delivery model for wheelchair services.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many equipment stores have been decommissioned as a result of the implementation of the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchairs Services retail model; and what model is in place to provide the complex aids to daily living in areas in which such equipment stores have been decommissioned; [309286]

(2) how many organisations have been using the retail model since his Department's *(a)* stakeholder events and *(b)* endorsement of the Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchairs Services retail model; whether those organisations are using that model for simple aids to daily living alone; and how much has been paid to management consultants for work for those organisations. [309287]

Phil Hope: The Department does not collect information on the decommissioning of local equipment stores. Decommissioning equipment stores is a decision for local authorities and their health partners to take based on their individual business cases.

For the provision of complex aids, the Department has developed a methodology, tools and materials to assist and support local authorities and their health partners.

Since ministerial endorsement of the wider implementation of the retail model in June 2008, the model is live in seven local authority and health partnerships where prescriptions are being issued for simple equipment. There are also nine local authority and health partners on track to start issuing prescriptions by the end of March 2010 and a further 14 who have contacted the national programme for support to implement the retail model.

The Care Services Efficiency Delivery, on behalf of the London Joint Improvement Partnership, successfully bid to Capital Ambition, the London Regional Improvement and Efficiency Programme, for £1.93 million to accelerate the implementation of the retail model for simple aids across London within two years. The first wave of five sites have started their projects and it takes each locality between nine and 12 months from taking the decision to completing the implementation of the new model for simple aids to daily living. Sites will start to consider their complex equipment solution during months three to nine of their simple aids to daily living project. Currently there are three "clusters" of organisations developing in London, the North West and South West, who wish to work together to design more efficient complex equipment solutions.

The Department does not collect information on how much has been paid to management consultants for work for those organisations.

Continuing Care: Expenditure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of continuing healthcare has been in each primary care trust in each of the last three years. [309313]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the cost of providing NHS-funded continuing healthcare in each primary care trust is not collected centrally.

Dental Services: Aluminium

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of the extent of use of yellow-coloured copper aluminium alloy in place of dental gold in dental treatments; [308145]

(2) how many patients are estimated to have had yellow-coloured copper aluminium alloy fitted instead of dental gold in dental treatment without being informed of the material being used; and if he will make a statement. [308146]

Ann Keen: Information is not held centrally on which we could base these assessments. The use of this alloy is not permitted in the manufacture of dental appliances prescribed for national health service patients under schedule 3 (a) of the NHS (Dental Charges) Regulations 2005. From April 2008 dentists have been required to provide information on the range of dental appliances they prescribe for NHS patients. If this suggests that there are abuses of the regulations, we will consult the NHS Counter Fraud Service on how to improve compliance.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307798]

Ann Keen: The criminal offences created by secondary legislation (a total of four statutory instruments) since 1 May 2008 are as follows:

Regulation 6 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Registration of Regulated Activities) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/660) made it a criminal offence for a person registered as a service provider to contravene or fail to comply with the provisions of regulation 5 of those regulations which set out requirements which a service provider has to meet in relation to the prevention and control of health care associated infections. This came into force on 1 April 2009.

Regulation 25 of the Care Quality Commission (Registration) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 2009/3112) makes it a criminal offence for a person to contravene or fail to comply with the provisions of these regulations which set out requirements which registered persons are required to meet in carrying out regulated activities. This will come into force on 1 April 2010.

The Medical Devices (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/2936) implement directive 2007/47/EC on general medical devices and directive 90/385/EEC on active implantable devices. These will come into force on 21 March 2010. They amend the Medical Devices Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/618) by adding additional requirements, each of which is punishable as a criminal offence, if not complied with. For general medical devices:

> A new regulation 8(3) of the Active Implantable Medical Devices Regulations 1992 is created, under which where a hazard exists, devices which are also machinery must also meet the essential health and safety requirements set out in annex I to directive 2006/42 to the extent to which those essential health and safety requirements are more specific than the essential requirements to directive 93/42;
>
> Regulation 9 is amended, so that when a custom-made device is supplied to a patient, the health care professional who writes the prescription for the custom-made device must, in relation to each patient that they supply with such a device, (a) ensure that the patient is aware that they may request the statement containing the information required by sections 1 and 2 of annex VIII; and (b) ensure that the statement containing the information required by sections 1 and 2 of annex VIII is made available to the patient on request;
>
> Regulation 14 is amended so that where a device is intended by the manufacturer to be used in conjunction with both the provisions in council directive 89/686/EEC on the approximation or the laws of the member states relating to personal protective equipment and directive 93/42, the relevant basic health and safety requirements of that directive must also be fulfilled;
>
> Regulation 16 is amended, requiring the manufacturer, or their single authorised representative, to (a) notify the Secretary of State of the end of the clinical investigation; and (b) provide justification where premature termination has resulted.

Similar amendments are made to the provisions of the Active Implantable Medical Devices Regulations 1992 which deal with active implantable devices:

> Regulation 30 is amended so that the manufacturer of an active implantable device, who under their own name places devices on the market, must provide the Secretary of State with (a) the address of their registered place of business; (b) a description of the devices concerned; and (c) details of the label and instructions for use that accompany each device. Where they do not have a registered place of business in a member state, the manufacturer must (a) designate a single authorised representative; and (b) ensure that the authorised representative has a registered place of business in a member state.

The Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisations Etc.) Amendment Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/3097) amend the Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisation Etc.) Regulations (SI 1994/3144) so as to give effect to Regulation (EC) No. 1901/2006 on medicinal products for paediatric use, which establishes a scheme of obligations and incentives to encourage the development of, and improve access to, medicines for children. These came into force on 29 December 2008. They amend the 1994 regulations by imposing several additional requirements, each of which is punishable as a criminal offence:

An authorisation holder must submit an annual report to the European Medicines Agency (EMEA) as required by article 34(4) of the paediatric regulation;

A new paragraph 6BA is added, so that where the holder of a United Kingdom marketing authorisation has benefited from rewards or incentives under articles 36, 37 or 38 of the paediatric regulation in relation to the product to which the authorisation relates and the periods of protection provided pursuant to those articles have expired, he shall be guilty of an offence if he discontinues the placing of that product on the market without previously, in compliance with article 35 of the paediatric regulation (a) transferring the marketing authorisation of that product to another person who has declared his intention to continue to place that product on the market, or (b) allowing use by such a person of the pharmaceutical, pre-clinical and clinical documentation contained in the file on that product on the basis of article 10c of the directive 2001/83/EC;

A new paragraph 6BB is added, so that where the holder of a United Kingdom marketing authorisation has benefited from rewards or incentives under articles 36, 37 or 38 of the paediatric regulation in relation to the product to which the authorisation relates, and the periods of protection provided pursuant to those articles have expired, he shall be guilty of an offence if he discontinues the placing of that product on the market without informing the EMEA in compliance with article 35 of the paediatric regulation, at least six months before the discontinuation of his intention to discontinue the placing of the product on the market;

A new paragraph 6G is added, so that where any person who (a) is the holder of a United Kingdom marketing authorisation (b) obtains a paediatric indication in respect of the product to which the marketing authorisation relates following completion of an agreed paediatric investigation plan, (c) has marketed that product for other indications prior to obtaining that paediatric indication and (d) fails to place the product on the market taking account of the paediatric indication within two years of the date on which the paediatric indication is authorised as required by article 33 of the paediatric regulation, he shall be guilty of an offence;

A new paragraph 13B(1) is added, so that any person established in the United Kingdom to whom a decision by the EMEA in respect of a paediatric investigation plan is addressed shall be guilty of an offence if the plan relates to a product which does not have a Community marketing authorisation and the person fails to (a) enter into the database referred to in article 11 of the clinical trials directive within a period of six months beginning with the date that the decision was received, the details set out in that article in relation to clinical trials referred to in the paediatric investigation plan and carried out in third countries as required by article 41(1) of the paediatric regulation; or (b) submit the results of those clinical trials to the EMEA within a period of six months beginning with the date that the trial ended as required by article 41(2) of the paediatric regulation;

A new paragraph 13B(2) is added, so that where the holder of a United Kingdom marketing authorisation instigates or conducts a paediatric clinical trial in the United Kingdom in respect of the product to which the authorisation relates and the trial is not included in a paediatric investigation plan, he shall be guilty of an offence if he fails to submit the results of that trial to the EMEA within a period of six months beginning with the date that the trial ended, as required by article 41(2) of the paediatric regulation;

A new paragraph 13B(3) is added, so that where the holder of a United Kingdom marketing authorisation has instigated or conducted a paediatric clinical trial in the United Kingdom which ended on or after 26 January 2007 but before 29 December 2008 in respect of the product to which the authorisation relates and the trial is not included in a paediatric investigation plan, he shall be guilty of an offence if he fails to submit the results of that trial to the EMEA on or before 29 June 2009, as required by article 41(2) of the paediatric regulation;

A new paragraph 13B(4) is added, so that where any person who (a) is the sponsor of a paediatric clinical trial in the United Kingdom in respect of a medicinal product (i) with a United Kingdom marketing authorisation, but where the trial is not instigated by the marketing authorisation holder; or (ii) without a United Kingdom or Community marketing authorisation, where the trial is not included in a paediatric investigation plan; and (b) fails to submit the results of that trial to the EMEA within the period of six months beginning on the date that the trial ended as required by article 41(2) of the paediatric regulation, he shall be guilty of an offence;

A new paragraph 13B(5) is added, so that where any person who (a) has sponsored a paediatric clinical trial in the United Kingdom in respect of a medicinal product (i) with a United Kingdom marketing authorisation, but who is not the marketing authorisation holder; or (ii) without a United Kingdom or Community marketing authorisation, where the trial is not included in a paediatric investigation plan and ended on or after 26 January 2007 but before 29 December 2008; and (b) fails to submit the results of that trial to the EMEA on or before 29 June 2009 as required by article 41(2) of the paediatric regulation, he shall be guilty of an offence;

A new paragraph 13B(6) is added, so that any holder of a United Kingdom marketing authorisation who (a) has knowledge of a paediatric study in respect of the product to which the authorisation relates that ended on or before 25 January 2007; and (b) fails to submit that paediatric study to the licensing authority on or before 29 June 2009 as required by article 45(1) of the paediatric regulation, shall be guilty of an offence;

A new paragraph 13B(7) is added, so that any holder of a United Kingdom marketing authorisation who (a) sponsors a paediatric study in respect of the product to which the authorisation relates; and (b) fails to submit the results to the licensing authority within a period of six months beginning with the date that the trial ended as required by article 46(1) of the paediatric regulation, shall be guilty of an offence;

A new paragraph 13B(8) is added, so that any holder of a United Kingdom marketing authorisation who (a) has sponsored a paediatric study in respect of the product to which the authorisation relates which ended on or after 26 January 2007 but before 29 December 2008; and (b) fails to submit the results to the licensing authority on or before 29 June 2009 as required by article 46(1) of the paediatric regulation, shall be guilty of an offence.

No criminal offences have been abolished by secondary legislation since 1 May 2008.

Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost of treating diabetes in children under the age of 16 years was in each of the last five years; [308739]

(2) what the cost of treating diabetes in adults was in each of the last five years. [308749]

Ann Keen: Estimates of national health service expenditure on diabetes are available from the programme budgeting returns. However, the programme budget returns do not contain age-specific data relating to the treatment of diabetes.

The following table shows the estimated gross level expenditure for diabetes from 2004-08 in England. These figures include primary care trust, Department of Health (DH), strategic health authority and special health authority expenditure. It should be noted that these figures do not include prevention expenditure or general medical services/primary medical services expenditure. This is considerable, but we cannot quantify it separately.

	Diabetes expenditure (£)	*DH gross expenditure (£)*	*Diabetes as a proportion of gross expenditure (Percentage)*
2004-05	687,402	71,922,179	1.0
2005-06	866,000	80,185,241	1.1
2006-07	1,043,021	84,193,209	1.2
2007-08	1,151,183	93,183,426	1.2

Diabetes: Young People

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many 16 to 24-year-olds are being treated for diabetes in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leicester and *(c)* the East Midlands; [308747]

(2) how many 16 to 24-year-olds in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leicester and *(c)* the East Midlands have been diagnosed with (i) type 1 diabetes and (ii) type 2 diabetes. [308748]

Ann Keen: The data requested are not collected routinely, as participation in the National Diabetes Audit (NDA) is not mandatory. The NDA does not have 100 per cent. coverage or participation and therefore cannot provide the information required.

Data from "Growing Up with Diabetes: children and young people with diabetes in England" reported that in February 2009 there were 4,917 people aged 16 and 17 in England with diabetes and 331 people aged 16 and 17 in the East Midlands Strategic Health Authority (SHA) with diabetes.

Of the 4,917 people aged 16 and 17 in England with diabetes, 4,629 had type 1 diabetes and 288 had type 2 diabetes. In the East Midlands SHA there were 313 people aged 16 and 17 with type 1 diabetes and 18 people aged 16 and 17 with type 2 diabetes.

This survey did not collect data on people aged 18 and over and data are only available by SHA.

Dietary Supplements: EC Law

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if the Food Standards Agency will raise at future meetings with the authorities in Guernsey and Jersey the implementation of the EU *(a)* Food Supplements Directive and *(b)* Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation. [309079]

Gillian Merron: The implementation of the Food Supplements Directive and Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation was last raised with the authorities of Guernsey and Jersey in September 2009. No further meetings are currently planned.

Disabled: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether all existing and future claimants of *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance who are over the age of 65 years will need to agree care plans in order to receive an equivalent level of support; [309116]

(2) whether all *(a)* existing and *(b)* future claimants of (i) attendance allowance and (ii) disability living allowance who are over the age of 65 will have the option of continuing to be able to receive their benefit in cash via a direct payment from a future national care service. [309117]

Phil Hope: If disability benefits for older people are reformed as part of the introduction of the National Care Service, people receiving the affected benefits at the time of reform will continue to receive the same level of cash support. We do not anticipate that these people will need to agree a care plan in order to access this cash support.

As we said in the Green Paper, if we were to draw some disability benefits for older people into the new National Care Service, we would create a new offer for individuals with care needs. This support would be delivered in line with the best principles of benefits: a system that is consistent across the country, flexible methods of payment and investment in prevention.

Health Services: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on healthcare in the Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust area *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* other health care categories in each year since 1999. [309138]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not held in the format requested.

Figures on how much has been spent on health care services in the Gloucestershire primary care trust (PCT) area from 2002-03 to 2008-09 are given in the following table. These are the only years for which the information is available by organisation.

Gloucestershire PCT—purchase of health care 2002-03 to 2008-09

£000

	Primary health care	*Secondary health care*	*Other health care*
2008-09	191,546	589,362	1,188
2007-08	182,552	559,397	625
2006-07	177,393	499,992	2,749
2005-06	164,813	491,882	1,151
2004-05	153,618	451,735	1,023
2003-04	128,961	383,058	610
2002-03	100,199	355,689	473

Notes:

1. The figures represent the total primary, secondary and other health care purchased and provided for the PCT's resident population, with the exception of primary dental and general ophthalmic services since these costs are not directly attributed to PCTs on the basis of a patient's place of residence.

2. 'Other healthcare' as defined in the audited summarisation schedules is taken to include expenditure for national health service trust impairments, plus grants to other bodies for health related capital projects under joint working arrangements.

Source:

Audited summarisation schedules 2002-03 to 2008-09

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* Gloucestershire county council and *(b)* district councils in Gloucestershire were paid by the NHS for joint-funded projects in each year since 1999. [309139]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether EU citizens are entitled to free hospital care and treatment in circumstances where admission to hospital is non-elective as the need for admission and treatment was unforeseen prior to the patient's entry into the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [309432]

Gillian Merron: Residents of the European economic area and Switzerland visiting the United Kingdom (UK) are entitled, free of charge, to all necessary national health service hospital treatment.

Under European regulations, where visitors carry a valid European Health Insurance Card the UK can then reclaim the cost of that treatment from the citizen's home member state

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the NHS *(a)* was entitled to reclaim and *(b)* has reclaimed for health care carried out on UK citizens in other countries with which the UK has a reciprocal agreement in the last 12-month period for which figures are available; [308380]

(2) how much has been reclaimed by the NHS for healthcare carried out in England in respect of nationals of other countries with which the UK has a reciprocal agreement in the last 12-month period for which figures are available. [308381]

Gillian Merron: The United Kingdom does not claim reimbursement for UK citizens treated in other countries on the basis of bilateral health care agreements, as the costs are incurred in the country that provided the health care, and not in the UK.

Similarly, countries with which the UK has a bilateral health care agreement do not claim reimbursement from the UK for treatment provided in the UK to their citizens, as the costs are incurred in the UK, and not in the citizen's home country.

European regulations provide for the UK to reclaim costs from the European economic area and Switzerland for health care provided to their citizens, and vice versa.

Hospital Wards: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* mixed-sex and *(b)* single-sex wards there are in South London Healthcare NHS Trust hospitals. [308503]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. Information on the different types of ward may be obtained from the national health service locally.

Ice Skating: Injuries

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people required hospital treatment as a result of ice-skating accidents in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* each county in the North West in each of the last three years. [308291]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. Information for hospital admissions involving ice-skates, skis, roller-skates or skateboards by North West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) of residence is shown in the following table:

Finished admission episodes[1] for fall involving ice-skates, skis, roller-skates or skateboards[2] by North West SHA and PCT of residence[3], 2006-07 to 2008-09

SHA/PCT of residence description	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
North West SHA	561	642	474
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	18	13	12
Salford PCT	9	22	8
Stockport PCT	32	32	19
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	27	35	12
Blackpool PCT	14	12	19
Bolton PCT	13	24	19
Warrington PCT	20	17	23
Knowsley PCT	14	9	8
Oldham PCT	28	26	20
Bury PCT	13	11	9
Tameside and Glossop PCT	12	19	16
Cumbria PCT	34	20	27
North Lancashire PCT	31	29	26
Central Lancashire PCT	53	51	33
East Lancashire Teaching PCT	44	51	30
Sefton PCT	23	30	21
Wirral PCT	22	28	25
Liverpool PCT	25	38	22
Halton and St. Helens PCT	19	33	22
Western Cheshire PCT	23	30	11
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	33	51	38
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	16	11	8
Trafford PCT	21	22	20
Manchester PCT	17	28	26

Notes:

[1] Full time equivalent figures are rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] A supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. Only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode is counted in HES. Cause code used: W02—Fall involving ice-skates, skis, roller-skates or skateboards.

[3] The SHA or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.

Source:

The NHS information centre for health and social care.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of people with multiple sclerosis. [308378]

Ann Keen: The National Service Framework for long-term neurological conditions, published in 2005, estimated there were between 52-62,000 people in the United Kingdom with this condition.

Multiple Sclerosis: Nurses

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses specialise in caring for people with multiple sclerosis. [308379]

Ann Keen: This nurse specialty is not identified separately on the NHS work force census.

NHS: Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many websites have the suffix nhs.uk in their web address. [307941]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 15 December 2009, there were 6,004 live United Kingdom websites with the nhs.uk suffix. 3,985 of these were live records within the English national health service web estate. The remainder have been allocated by the devolved Administrations.

These numbers are constantly changing as new websites are created and old websites decommissioned.

Nottingham Hospital: Manpower

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed at Nottingham City Hospital in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [308496]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. However, data for the Nottingham University Hospitals National Health Service Trust are set out in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified nursing staff and medical and dental staff within specified organisations 1997 to 2008

		Headcount
	As at 30 September each year	
	1997	*2008*
Qualified Nursing staff	3,099	3,770
Nottingham City Hospital NHS Trust	1,442	n/a
Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham University NHS Trust	1,657	n/a
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	3,770
Medical and Dental staff	967	1,371
Nottingham City Hospital NHS Trust	371	n/a
Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham University NHS Trust	596	n/a
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	—	1,371

n/a = Not applicable.

Note:

In 2006 Nottingham City Hospital NHS Trust merged with Queens Medical Centre Nottingham University NHS Trust to become Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust. Therefore data have been provided for Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust in 2008 and its component parts in 1997.

Data Quality

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

Medical and Dental Workforce Census, The Information Centre for health and social care

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many employees of his Department and its agencies have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308515]

Phil Hope: The Department has no central records of any members of staff of the core Department who have been convicted of a criminal offence while a serving civil servant since 1997.

Where such reports as these involve less than five cases, the Department follows Cabinet Office guidelines and does not publicly report specific figures on the grounds of confidentiality. With such small numbers the individuals concerned might be personally identified with possible legal consequences. A number of such cases have occurred in the Department's agencies but the total number of those cases are less than five.

Social Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to limit the entitlement available to those in receipt of *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance under proposals for reform of the social care system. [308782]

Phil Hope: If disability benefits for older people are reformed as part of the National Care Service, those receiving the affected benefits at the time of reform would continue to receive the same level of cash support. We will give more details about the National Care Service offer in our White Paper later this year.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 762W, on social services, if he will publish the elements of the micro-simulation model which provided the figures on the number of individuals whose needs are critical. [309124]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 552W.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 553-4W, on social services, in what month those discussions and clearances took place. [309125]

Phil Hope: These discussions and clearances took place between early September and November 2009.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 495W, on social services, what methodology was used to calculate the *(a)* residential and *(b)* informal care switchers. [309126]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 763W.

Social Services: Reform

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the implementation of his plans for the NHS in respect of social care provision will require legislation; [309288]

(2) whether social care provision commissioned by primary care trusts will be exempt from means-testing; [309289]

(3) what powers he plans to provide for NHS commissioners to commission social care; [309290]

(4) what uplift he expects each primary care trust to receive consequent on the takeover of social care provision by primary care trusts; [309291]

(5) what plans he has to transfer *(a)* control over provision and *(b)* responsibility for funding of social care to primary care trusts; [309362]

(6) what plans he has for the future role of the NHS in respect of control over provision of social care; and if he will make a statement. [309363]

Phil Hope: Both "NHS 2010-15; good to great", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, and "The NHS operating framework for England for 2010/11" emphasised the importance of the NHS working together with its partners to deliver joined-up services around people's needs and support people to stay healthy and independent. Neither document suggested structural changes to accountability or governance.

A copy of the framework has been placed in the Library.

Surgery: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the London borough of *(a)* Bexley, *(b)* Bromley and *(c)* Greenwich underwent elective surgery in the last three years for which figures are available. [308502]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information is not collected in the format requested. However, the following table shows the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) in which an elective procedure or intervention, including but not limited to elective surgery, was performed. A finished consultant episode is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, since one patient may have more than one episode of care within the same stay at hospital, or in different stays within the same year.

Count of finished consultant episodes where a main elective procedure or intervention was performed at Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich Primary Care Trust of responsibility from 2006-07 to 2008-09

	FCEs where an elective procedure or intervention was performed		
	Bexley PCT	*Bromley PCT*	*Greenwich PCT*
2008-09	25,073	45,177	26,982
2007-08	23,585	38,565	26,170
2006-07	23,824	34,937	25,565

Notes:

1. Commissioning responsibility for individual patients rests with the primary care trust (PCT) with whom the patient is registered. This means that patients with a general practitioner (GP) in one PCT area may reside in a neighbouring or other area but remain the responsibility of the PCT with whom their GP of registration is associated. PCTs are also responsible for non-registered patients who are resident within their boundaries.
2. A main elective procedure or intervention is the first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode, usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Surgery: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgical operations were carried out on the NHS in Nottingham North constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [308495]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: This information is not available in the format requested. Data on finished consultant episodes[1] (FCEs) are collected by primary care trust (PCT) of responsibility[2], the commissioning PCT, not by constituency.

The number of FCEs where there was a main procedure[3] with Nottingham City as the PCT of responsibility in 2008-08 and 1997-98 is shown in the following table. This includes activity in national health service hospitals in England and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

	Finished consultant episodes
2008-09	46,357
1997-98	39,152

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics, The Information Centre for health and social care

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[1] An FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] PCT of responsibility—this is a derived field providing the PCT responsible for the patient. The commissioning responsibility for individual patients rests with the PCT with whom the patient is registered. Therefore, this is based on the postcode of the patient's general practitioner (GP). This means that patients with a GP in one PCT area may reside in a neighbouring or other area but remain the responsibility of the PCT with whom their GP of registration is associated. PCTs are also responsible for non-registered patients who are resident within their boundaries.

[3] Main procedure—the first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode (Operating Procedure Code Supplement codes AOO to X97), usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (e.g. time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedures.

Surgery: Obesity

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgical procedures to treat obesity were carried out on the NHS in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each strategic health authority area in each year since 1997. [308091]

Gillian Merron: Data on finished consultant episodes with a primary diagnosis of obesity as well as a main or secondary procedure of bariatric surgery for England and each health authority or regional area are provided in the following table. Data are available for each year from 1997-98 to 2008-09.

The NHS Information Centre has provided slightly revised data to those previously provided for the years 1997-98 to 2006-07 following a revision of the definition of bariatric surgery.

Count of Finished Consultant Episodes[1] with a primary diagnosis[2] of obesity[4] and a main or secondary procedure[3] of bariatric surgery[4] broken down by SHA of residence[5] for 1997-98 to 2008-09—Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Strategic health authority (SHA)		*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*
England total		4,221	2,695	1,934	1,032	736	469	340	280	257	196	196	148
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	Q01	—	—	—	40	25	12	9	6	7	2	4	6
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	Q02	—	—	—	28	18	9	6	8	7	2	3	2
Essex SHA	Q03	—	—	—	12	13	7	5	3	5	4	1	1
North West London SHA	Q04	—	—	—	69	46	11	13	5	7	3	1	1
North Central London SHA	Q05	—	—	—	29	16	12	5	2	3	5	—	2
North East London SHA	Q06	—	—	—	24	10	4	3	1	2	1	2	—
South East London SHA	Q07	—	—	—	32	27	18	11	13	18	11	4	3
South West London SHA	Q08	—	—	—	33	22	11	11	5	8	7	2	4
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	Q09	—	—	—	58	33	23	11	9	8	8	10	10
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	Q10	—	—	—	21	15	7	5	7	6	3	4	2
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	Q11	—	—	—	136	63	37	20	19	8	15	12	4
West Yorkshire SHA	Q12	—	—	—	59	51	65	40	38	56	42	31	30
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	Q13	—	—	—	13	18	17	11	14	9	14	7	7
Greater Manchester SHA	Q14	—	—	—	20	21	15	9	4	9	5	7	6
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	Q15	—	—	—	8	33	32	41	36	24	7	18	8
Thames Valley SHA	Q16	—	—	—	13	9	6	9	6	7	4	—	—
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	Q17	—	—	—	2	4	3	—	1	—	3	4	2
Kent and Medway SHA	Q18	—	—	—	12	18	5	5	9	4	3	3	3
Surrey and Sussex SHA	Q19	—	—	—	33	21	16	13	13	9	7	5	—
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	Q20	—	—	—	57	19	12	1	3	[illegible]	3	3	4
South West Peninsula SHA	Q21	—	—	—	33	22	13	12	24	7	12	6	5
Dorset and Somerset SHA	Q22	—	—	—	31	13	4	3	1	4	2	2	—
South Yorkshire SHA	Q23	—	—	—	107	88	63	43	24	22	15	17	23
Trent SHA	Q24	—	—	—	85	42	20	22	14	14	6	7	10
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	Q25	—	—	—	19	33	11	8	2	4	—	5	3
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	Q26	—	—	—	23	21	18	11	3	3	3	11	3
Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	Q27	—	—	—	25	20	12	10	7	3	7	25	7
West Midlands South SHA	Q28	—	—	—	9	15	6	3	2	3	2	2	2
North East SHA	Q30	268	217	132	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North West SHA	Q31	316	75	77	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	Q32	584	491	439	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East Midlands SHA	Q33	550	279	205	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Midlands SHA	Q34	445	345	244	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
East of England SHA	Q35	243	117	87	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
London SHA	Q36	909	582	299	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South East Coast SHA	Q37	446	281	139	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Central SHA	Q38	157	127	110	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South West SHA	Q39	302	181	202	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
England - Not otherwise specified	U	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other, foreign and unknown SHAs		52	24	12	6	24	29	12	10	9	6	10	7

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[1] Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

A FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

[3] Number of episodes with a (named) main or secondary procedure The number of episodes where the procedure (or intervention) was recorded in any of the 24 (12 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and four prior to 2002-03) procedure fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if the procedure is recorded in more than one procedure field of the record. Note that more procedures are carried out than episodes with a main or secondary procedure. For example, patients under going a 'cataract operation' would tend to have at least two procedures—removal of the faulty lens and the fitting of a new one—counted in a single episode.

[4] Obesity and Bariatric Surgery Codes

Obesity: ICD-10 code used for obesity was E66.

Bariatric Surgery Procedure Codes.

Recent guidance from the standards and classification team at Connecting for Health has led to a revision of the definition for 'Bariatric Surgery'. Due to these changes revised data has been provided. (See: OPCS-4 explanatory notes for more details on the bariatric surgery procedure codes)

The OPCS-4 procedure codes below are used to denote bariatric surgery.

The OPCS-4 procedure codes (1996-97 to 2005-06, and 2006-07 to 2008-09) are: G28.1, G28.2, G28.3, G28.8, G28.9, G30.1, G30.2, G30.8, G30.9, G31.1, G31.2, G31.3, G31.4, G31.8, G31.9, G31.0, G32.1, G32.2, G32.3, G32.8, G32.9, G32.0, G33.1, G33.2, G33.3, G33.8, G33.9, G33.0, G38.8, G48.1, G48.2.

The following additional four digit OPCS-4 codes have been added due to the use of OPCS-4.3 in 2006-07 data:

G28.4, G28.5, G30.3, G30.4, G31.5, G31.6, G32.4, G32.5, G33.5, G33.6, G38.7, G71.6

Additional OPCS-4.4 codes used for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 data are: G27.1, G27.2, G27.3, G27.4, G27.5, G27.8 and G27.9.

[5] SHA/primary care trust (PCT) of residence

The SHA or PCT containing the patient's normal home address. This does not necessarily reflect where the patient was treated as they may have travelled to another SHA/PCT for treatment.

PCT/SHA data quality

In July 2006, the NHS reorganised SHA and PCT in England from 28 SHAs into 10, and from 303 PCTs into 152. As a result data from 2006-07 onwards are not directly comparable with previous years. Data have been presented for those SHA/PCTs which have valid data for the breakdown presented here. As a result some SHA/PCTs may be missing from the list provided.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and so no longer include in admitted patient HES data.

Strategic Health Authority Configuration

In 2006-07 there was a SHA configuration change, where 28 SHAs merged into 10. For this reason, 2006-07 is based on the new configuration.

Bariatric Surgery Procedure Codes.

The OPCS-4 procedure codes below are used to denote bariatric surgery.

The OPCS-4 procedure codes (1996-97 to 2005-06, and 2006-07 to 2008-09) are:

G28.1 Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G28.2 Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G28.3 Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach jejunum nec
G28.8 Other specific partial excision of stomach
G28.9 Unspecified partial excision of stomach
G30.1 Gastroplasty nec
G30.2 Partitioning of stomach nec
G30.8 Other specified plastic operations on stomach
G30.9 Unspecified plastic operations on stomach
G31.1 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of oesophagus to duodenum
G31.2 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G31.3 Revision of anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G31.4 Conversion to anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G31.8 Other specified connection of stomach to duodenum
G31.9 Unspecified connection of stomach to duodenum
G31.0 Conversion from previous anastomosis of stomach to duodenum
G32.1 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.2 Revision of anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.3 Conversion to anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.8 Other specified connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.9 Unspecified connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.0 Conversion from previous anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
G33.1 Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec
G33.2 Revision of anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec
G33.3 Conversion of anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec

G33.8 Other specified other connection of stomach to jejunum
G33.9 Unspecified other connection of stomach to jejunum
G33.0 Conversion from previous anastomosis of stomach to jejunum nec
G38.8 Other specified other open operations on stomach
G48.1 Insertion of gastric bubble
G48.2 Attention to gastric bubble
The following additional four digit OPCS-4 codes have been added due to the use of OPCS-4.3 in 2006-07 data:
G28.4 Sleeve gastrectomy and duodenal switch
G28.5 Sleeve gastrectomy nec
G30.3 Partitioning of stomach using band
G30.4 Partitioning of stomach using staples
G31.5 Closure of connection of stomach and duodenum
G31.6 Attention to connection of stomach and duodenum
G32.4 Closure of connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
G32.5 Attention to connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
G33.5 Closure of connection of stomach to jejunum nec
G33.6 Attention to connection of stomach to jejunum
G38.7 Removal of gastric band
G71.6 Duodenal switch
Additional OPCS-4.4 codes used for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 data are:
G27.1 Total gastrectomy and excision of surrounding tissue
G27.2 Total gastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to duodenum
G27.3 Total gastrectomy and interposition of jejunum
G27.4 Total gastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to transposed jejunum
G27.5 Total gastrectomy and anastomosis of oesophagus to jejunum nec
G27.8 Other specified total excision of stomach
G27.9 Unspecified total excision of stomach
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Fuel Poverty

14. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households were in fuel poverty in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Billericay constituency in (i) 2003 and (ii) 2009. [308904]

Mr. Kidney: The estimated number of households in fuel poverty in the UK was around 2 million in 2003. The latest year for which figures are available is for 2007 and this shows that there were around 4 million fuel-poor households in the UK.

The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were around 2,600 fuel-poor households in the Billericay constituency. In 2003 there were around 2,400 fuel-poor households in the Billericay constituency.

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to reduce the level of fuel poverty among households not on the gas main. [308909]

Mr. Kidney: We are aware of the challenges that exist for households off the gas main. To help address this:

Ofgem has incentivised large gas networks to provide connections to deprived households off the network;

CERT provides incentives for energy suppliers to promote heat pumps in off-gas-grid vulnerable properties;

Warm Front in England is piloting air source heat pumps, and

The forthcoming Renewable Heat Incentive has the potential to benefit off-gas-grid consumers.

Fuel Poverty: Older People

15. **Mr. Dodds:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to reduce fuel poverty among older people. [308905]

Mr. Kidney: The Government have a strong package of measures to help reduce fuel poverty among vulnerable households which includes the elderly. This is centred on tackling the three root causes of fuel poverty:

Reducing the demand for energy by improving home energy efficiency through schemes such as Warm Front and equivalents in the devolved Administrations, CERT, CESP and Decent Homes;

Ensuring competitive energy prices through a robust system of regulation aimed to protect all consumers; and

Raising real incomes, including winter fuel and cold weather payments alongside the wider tax and benefit system and through benefit entitlement checks. We have introduced legislation to implement mandated social price support schemes once the current voluntary agreement with suppliers comes to an end and have said that we are minded to focus the majority of the additional resources on older pensioner households on the lowest incomes.

Climate Change: Scientific Evidence

16. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the scientific evidence relating to climate change. [308907]

Joan Ruddock: DECC includes a dedicated team of climate specialists who keep the scientific evidence under review. The AVOID research programme on avoiding dangerous climate change recently assessed the scientific research published since the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report. The findings informed the UK delegation ahead of Copenhagen. Expert advice is also obtained from the UK and wider academic research community and through the Integrated Climate Programme at the Met Office Hadley Centre.

Climate Change: Copenhagen

17. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the outcome of the Copenhagen climate change conference; and if he will make a statement. [308908]

Joan Ruddock: The Accord agreed in Copenhagen marks the start of a new phase in tackling climate change. Major developed and developing countries committed to further action, including reaching agreement on the need to limit global warming to 2 degrees. The

UK will now work to convert the measures agreed at Copenhagen into a comprehensive legally binding agreement.

Biofuels

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department has made in defining its biomass sustainability criteria. [308252]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* The Government's approach to defining sustainability criteria for biomass is set out in the UK Renewable Energy Strategy, launched in July.

We are awaiting the European Commission's report on the requirement for a sustainability scheme for solid and gaseous biomass used for heat and electricity, which was due by 31 December 2009. This report will be accompanied, where appropriate, with proposals to the European Parliament and Council.

We will then consider this report and its implications for introducing sustainability criteria for the biomass used for heat and electricity in the UK.

Boilers

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the boiler scrappage scheme applies to boilers operating on liquefied petroleum gas. [308251]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* Liquefied petroleum gas boilers are eligible for this scheme if they meet the criteria on age and efficiency.

BP: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects on the use of the local road network of BP's contract to lease the Oikos terminal on Canvey Island; and if he will make a statement. [306318]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply:

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has made no assessment of the effects on the use of the local road network of BP Oil UK Ltd.'s contract to lease storage facilities at Oikos Storage Ltd.'s site on Canvey Island.

Oikos will remain the operator of this site for the purposes of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (COMAH) and will have overall responsibility for safety throughout the duration of the BP contract. HSE's role is to monitor safety at the site. HSE will continue to do this and will assess any significant changes that Oikos make to the site and to the site's COMAH safety report as a result of the implementation of the BP contract. As part of their responsibilities under COMAH, Oikos are expected to identify and assess hazards and risks associated with the transport of hazardous substances that could lead to major accidents at the site.

HSE understands that hazardous materials will be transferred to and from the Oikos site though underground pipelines throughout the duration of the BP contract. The safety of any hazardous materials transported by road in, for example, road tankers, would be covered by the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Regulations 2009 enforced by the police and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA).

Carbon Sequestration

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to encourage the further development of carbon capture and storage technology; and if he will make a statement. [308902]

Joan Ruddock: We have announced support for what is expected to be one of the world's first commercial-scale demonstrations of CCS on a coal-fired power station, and recently confirmed our intention to support a total of four demonstration projects.

We have supported extensive research to help understand the potential of CCS internationally and domestically. We have created one of the world's first legal frameworks to allow the safe storage of carbon dioxide and address the problem of long-term liability associated with storage sites.

Climate Change: British Overseas Territories

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make an assessment of the effects on the British Overseas Territories of decisions reached at the Copenhagen climate change conference. [309088]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change regarding the Copenhagen climate summit outcomes on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 42. As the statement suggested, we are continuing to reflect on the implications of the outcome of COP15 for the UK and for the Overseas Territories and are liaising with them directly over that.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of each document he presented to the recent United Nations climate change conference in Copenhagen; and if he will make a statement. [308184]

Joan Ruddock: The UK negotiates as part of the EU and therefore all formal submissions we have made to the UNFCCC have been as part of the EU. The EU made one submission during the Copenhagen climate change conference—the EU presented its fifth national communication under the UNFCCC on 7 December. A copy is available in the Library of the House. I refer the hon. Member to the Secretary of State's statement of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 42, on the outcomes of the Copenhagen climate change conference.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department attended the Copenhagen climate change conference; and at what cost to the public purse. [309178]

Joan Ruddock: Two Ministers and 36 officials from the Department of Energy and Climate Change attended the Copenhagen climate change conference as part of the UK delegation. The total cost to the UK taxpayer is not yet known, but current estimates suggest a rough costing of £350,000. This includes expenses for non-DECC members of the UK delegation which are covered from DECC's budgets, such as office space and land transportation.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the outcomes of the Copenhagen climate change conference. [309314]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 42, regarding the Copenhagen climate conference outcomes.

Departmental Disclosure of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301498]

Joan Ruddock: There have been no known allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing reported by departmental staff since the inception of DECC on 3 October 2008.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 October 2008. [307801]

Joan Ruddock: The offences we have identified include:

The Transfrontier shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel regulations 2008 (SI 2008/3087)

The Transfrontier shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel regulations 2008 (SI 2008/3087) continue to implement council directive 96/29/Euratom laying down basic standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation, and implement directive 2006/117/Euratom on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste and spent fuel. The regulations create several offences relating to the transfrontier shipment of radioactive waste or spent fuel without an authorisation granted by the Environment Agency (in England and Wales), the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (in Scotland) or the chief inspector appointed under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993 (in Northern Ireland).

Regulation 4(1) creates an offence of shipping radioactive waste or spent fuel to a destination outside the United Kingdom, or into the United Kingdom from a third country (except by way of transit), except in accordance with an authorisation. Regulation 4(2) creates an offence of shipping radioactive waste or spent fuel into the United Kingdom from another European member state except under the authority of an authorisation granted by that member state.

Regulation 5(1) creates an offence of shipping radioactive waste or spent fuel into the United Kingdom from a third country by way of transit to another member state except in accordance with an authorisation granted by the member state of destination.

Regulation 5(2) creates an offence of shipping radioactive waste or spent fuel into the United Kingdom from a third country for transit to another third country except in accordance with an authorisation by the UK authorities, or where relevant by the other member state.

Regulation 8(2) creates an offence of failing to notify the authorities within 15 days that a consignment of radioactive waste or spent fuel from outside the UK has been received.

Regulation 9(4) creates an offence of failing to notify the authorities that radioactive waste or spent fuel consigned from the UK to a different country has arrived, within 15 days of that arrival.

Regulation 10(2) creates an offence of failing to ensure that a shipment of radioactive waste or spent fuel is accompanied by the correct documents.

Regulation 11(2) creates an offence of making a false or misleading statement in an application under the regulations for authorisation in relation to shipping radioactive waste or spent fuel.

Regulation 14(3) creates an offence of failure to comply with an instruction of the authorities to return a consignment of radioactive waste or spent fuel to the country of origin, or to otherwise dispose of it.

Regulation 14(4)(b) creates an offence of failing to comply with a notice requiring the holder of an authorisation to take back any radioactive waste or spent fuel that has been sent out of the United Kingdom.

Regulation 15(2) creates an offence of failing to comply with a notice sent by the authorities requiring that information is sent or that actions are taken or are not taken in relation to the shipment of radioactive waste or spent fuel.

The regulations also revoke the "Transfrontier Shipment of Radioactive Waste Regulations 1993 (SI 1993/3031)" which contained in regulation 18 a set of offences which were similar in nature to the above new offences (although they did not apply to spent fuel).

Criminal Jurisdiction (Application to Offshore Energy Installation etc) Order 2009

Although not creating any new criminal offences, this order extends the existing criminal law regime in England and Wales and Scotland for acts or omissions that take place on and around a renewable energy installation in the UK's renewable energy zone.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in 2009. [306429]

Joan Ruddock: An element of the Department of Energy and Climate Change's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs.

The total amount of non-consolidated variable pay paid to civil servants in DECC from January to August 2009 inclusive (the latest figures available) is £484,000.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department and its agencies spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the (i) subject and (ii) location of each away day was. [306756]

Joan Ruddock: The information requested is not available centrally and could be made available only at disproportional cost.

Natural Gas

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the oxygen specification threshold of natural gas was set at 0.2 per cent.; and whether his Department has made an estimate of the effect on the level of use of natural gas of raising that threshold to three per cent. [305182]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 8 December 2009]:* This limit is set in the Gas Safety (Management) Regulations 1996 (SI 1996 No. 551), at schedule 3/part 1. Those regulations were made, by the then Department of the Environment, on the advice of the HSE. Subsequently the then Department for Business and Regulatory Reform consulted on future arrangements for Great Britain's gas quality specifications, and concluded that there was not a case for seeking change to the GS(M)R. Gas quality, and the process for seeking flexibility under the current statutory arrangements, is again discussed in a document just published by my Department, entitled "Biomethane into the Gas Network: A Guide for Producers"; this is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/markets/gas_markets/nonconvention/nonconvention.aspx

Natural Gas: Storage

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what additional volume of gas storage capacity he expects to be available in the UK by 2012. [308903]

Mr. Kidney: National Grid's "Ten Year Statement 2009" (published in December) shows 0.53 bcm of storage capacity under construction, and expected to commission by 2011-12.

Renewable Energy

Jacqui Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to ensure that local communities benefit directly from local renewable energy generation. [308888]

Joan Ruddock: The Government are developing and demonstrating successful models of community engagement through the 'Low Carbon Communities Challenge'; phase 1 winners were announced on 21 December. We are also setting effective financial subsidy levels through feed-in tariffs and the renewable heat incentive to benefit communities.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress his Department is making in the establishment of an incentive mechanism for the development of renewable heat technologies. [308898]

Joan Ruddock: We are currently working on the development of the renewable heat incentive scheme which will provide financial incentives to encourage renewable heat generation at all scales. We plan to publish our consultation on the scheme shortly. Details of how the scheme will operate will be set out in the consultation.

Sellafield: Waste Management

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on policy on disposal of nuclear waste from Sellafield. [308906]

Mr. Kidney: The Department has regular contact with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), its nuclear sites and other interested stakeholders. Government recognise the importance of managing radioactive waste to the highest environmental, security and safety standards and work closely with the NDA to ensure that this is done achieving best value for money consistent with those standards.

Warm Front Scheme: East Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* Lewes constituency and *(b)* East Sussex county council area received assistance under the Warm Front programme in 2008-09. [308457]

Mr. Kidney: In 2008-09, 322 households in Lewes constituency and 2,921 in East Sussex county council area received assistance from the Warm Front scheme.

Warm Front Scheme: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on the Warm Front programme in Stroud district in each year since its inception; and what other measures the Government have taken in Stroud district to *(a)* encourage greater energy efficiency measures and *(b)* reduce the level of fuel poverty. [309141]

Mr. Kidney: The following table details the amount spent by the Warm Front scheme each year in Stroud since June 2005.

Warm Front spend

	£
2005-06	180,242
2006-07	325,327
2007-08	347,282
2008-09	471,998
2009-10[1]	617,018

[1] Up to 30 November 2009.

The Government have a strong package of national programmes aimed at encouraging greater energy efficiency measures and reducing the level of fuel poverty. The combination of Warm Front, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP), Decent Homes and local programmes delivered through local government, partnerships, energy suppliers, Eaga and National Energy Action (such as Warm Zones and the Community Energy Efficiency Fund) are all important in tackling fuel poverty and encouraging greater energy efficiency across England.

In December 2009, my Department announced the launch of the Home Energy Pay As You Save (PAYS) pilots. Stroud district council in partnership with Severn Wye Energy Agency will deliver a PAYS pilot project to householders within the Stroud area. The PAYS pilot will give households the opportunity to invest in energy efficiency and microgeneration technologies in their homes with no up-front cost. Householders will make repayments spread over a long enough period so that repayments are lower than their predicted energy bill savings, meaning financial and carbon savings are made from day one.

Wind Power

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of the United Kingdom's energy needs are generated by wind power; and how many wind turbines are operating in the UK. [309075]

Mr. Kidney: In 2008 1.8 per cent. of UK electricity generation was from wind power[1]. Provisional figures for the first three quarters of 2009 indicate that in this period 2.2 per cent. of electricity generated in the UK was from wind[2].

The following table sets out the number of operational wind turbines in the UK as at November 2009. In addition, it is estimated that there are approximately 12,000 micro-wind turbines in the UK.

[1] *Source:*

Table 5.6 Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2009

(http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/dukes/dukes.aspx).

[2] *Source:*

Table 5.1 Energy Trends

(http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/source/electricity/electricity.aspx).

	Onshore	*Offshore*	*Total*
Greater than 50kW	2,617	[1]207	2,824
Less than 50kW	225	n/a	225
Total	2,842	207	3,049

[1] Does not include the Beatrice offshore wind demonstrator project which is outside UK territorial waters.

Source:

AEA Technology.

Wind Power: Noise

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what advice the maximum permitted night-time noise from onshore wind turbines was set at 43 decibels; when this limit was last reviewed; and why the recommendation in the 2006 draft report by Hayes McKenzie Partnership of a reduction in the sound level was rejected. [309012]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* The 43 decibel night-time limit in the ETSU-R-97 guidance is derived from the 35 dB(A) sleep disturbance criteria referred to in Planning Policy Guidance 24 (Planning and Noise). An addition of 10 dB(A) was made to the 35 dB(A) figure to allow for attenuation through an open window, and 2 dB subtracted to account for the use of LA_{90} rather than LA_{eq}. ETSU-R-97 has not been formally reviewed, but other aspects of wind turbine noise have been subject to a number of studies including the 2006 research by Hayes McKenzie.

In relation to the Hayes McKenzie research, I understand that the reference to the decibel levels was not included in the final report because the consultants decided that referring to a specific level (as in the first draft of the report) did not reflect the terms of reference of the study.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he will respond to Question 301323, tabled by the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire on 19 November 2009, on departmental working practices. [305879]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* I responded to the hon. Member on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1334W.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 11 January 2010

SCOTLAND

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307967]

Ann McKechin: The following table shows the volume of invoices received by the Scotland Office and the percentage of invoices paid within 10 days. Figures prior to November 2008 are not available.

Month	*Volume*	*Percentage paid within 10 days*
2008		
November	218	89.4
December	220	96.8
2009		
January	190	100
February	211	99.5
March	306	99.7
April	211	99.1
May	220	98.6
June	289	97.9
July	255	100
August	164	98.8
September	229	98.7
October	252	100
November	253	100

Departmental Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; what proportion of his Department's workforce they represented in each year; what the total amount of bonuses paid was in each year; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [300378]

Ann McKechin: All staff in the Scotland Office are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice. Staff may be eligible for non-consolidated performance payments in different ways. Firstly, through end of year performance payments under their parent bodies' performance management arrangements. The Scotland Office does not itself make the end of year awards and does not hold information centrally on end of year non-consolidated performance payments made to its secondees.

Secondly under the Special Bonus Scheme of the Scottish Executive and the Reward and Recognition Scheme of the MoJ, the Office may directly authorise non-consolidated performance payments (or in the case of the MoJ scheme, small and instantaneous awards, e.g. vouchers) in recognition of special effort, achievement and commitment. The following table shows the number and cost of non-pensionable payments made under these schemes:

Financial year	*Total number of payments*	*Total cost of payments (£)*	*Percentage work force*	*Percentage pay bill*
2004-05	3	1,400	5	0.06
2005-06	8	3,750	17	0.19
2006-07	17	4,750	32	0.25
2007-08	6	2,150	11	0.09
2008-09	8	2,900	14	0.12

The largest single payment under these schemes was £750.

Members of the senior civil service in the Scotland Office are seconded from the Scottish Executive and the Ministry of Justice, their non-consolidated performance payments are assessed under a framework set by the Cabinet Office. The Office does not hold central information on such payments.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses for its staff in 2009-10. [307025]

Ann McKechin: The salary budget of the Scotland Office for 2009-10 is £2,847,000, of which non-consolidated performance payments represent an estimated 0.01 per cent.

The non-consolidated performance payments are an integral element of the reward package for staff, have to be re-earned each year and do not add to future pay bill costs (e.g. pensions). The Scotland Office believe that performance payments help drive high performance in the office.

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in his Department in each year since 2007; and how much his Department spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309060]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not separately record the number of hotel rooms booked by officials and does not directly pay any fees to third party agents in booking such hotel accommodation.

All travel and subsistence is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Travel by Ministers and the Civil Service Management Code. All expenditure has be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Clergy: Misconduct

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what response he has made to the submission by Joe Rice, a solicitor acting on behalf of persons who when children were victims of abuse in Church and state institutions in Northern Ireland requesting that an inquiry be held on the same lines as that recently conducted in the Irish Republic; and if he will make a statement. [308062]

Paul Goggins: Officials replied to Mr. Rice explaining that the Northern Ireland Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety had written to me about the implications for Northern Ireland of the Ryan Commission report and that I was currently considering the letter and would reply to the Minister in due course.

I have now done so.

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) have to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and NDPBs have recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [309259]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies do not have the power to impose administrative penalties.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for his Department's website in each of the last three years; and what budget has been allocated for each such activity in 2009-10. [310214]

Paul Goggins: A review of my Department's website was conducted during the 2006-07 financial year to optimise the site and improve performance and download speeds. This review cost £15,677. In the next two financial years, the Department spent £4,308 and £4,227 respectively on hosting and infrastructure. No other costs were incurred. The total budget allocated for the next financial year is £5,000.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which websites his Department's staff are blocked from accessing from departmental networked computers. [310245]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) runs software to block all categories of websites which do not conform with the NIO Internet Acceptable Usage Policy or would be considered a network security risk. It is not possible to produce a list of the websites as they run into millions globally and come and go every day.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* entertainment in the last 12 months. [305533]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) records expenditure for alcohol and entertainment under the description of either hospitality or catering.

The NIO, including its arm's length bodies but excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, spent £189,855 on official hospitality and catering in 2008-09.

This includes receptions and events held at Hillsborough Castle. These events were attended by 15,287 cross-community representatives from the police and their families, armed forces, business, charity, voluntary and criminal justice sectors across Northern Ireland.

All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what remuneration, including all categories of pay and allowances, has been paid to *(a)* the Chairman and *(b)* members of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission in each year since its inception. [308991]

Mr. Woodward: The Chief Commissioner and Commissioners of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission have been paid as follows:

1999-2000

	£
Professor Brice Dickson (Chief Commissioner)	55,000
Professor Christine Bell	8,000
Mrs. Margaret Ann Dinsmore	8,000
Mr. Tom Donnelly	8,000
Reverend Harold Good	8,000
Professor Tom Hadden	8,000
Ms Angela Hegarty	8,000
Ms Patricia Kelly	8,000
Dr. Inez McCormack	8,000
Mr. Frank McGuinness	8,000

2000-01

	£
Professor Brice Dickson (Chief Commissioner)	57,475
Professor Christine Bell	8,000
Mrs. Margaret Ann Dinsmore	8,000
Mr. Tom Donnelly	8,000
Reverend Harold Good	8,000
Professor Tom Hadden	8,000
Ms Angela Hegarty	6,000
Ms Patricia Kelly	8,000
Dr. Inez McCormack	8,000
Mr. Frank McGuinness	8,000

2001-02

	£
Professor Brice Dickson (Chief Commissioner)	60,128
Professor Christine Bell	8,000
Mrs. Margaret Ann Dinsmore	8,000
Mr. Tom Donnelly	8,000
Reverend Harold Good	8,000
Professor Tom Hadden	8,000
Ms Patricia Kelly	8,000
Dr. Inez McCormack	8,000
Mr. Frank McGuinness	8,000
Lady Christine Eames	2,667
Dr. Christopher McGimpsey	2,667
Mr. Kevin McLaughlin	2,667
Mr. Patrick Yu	2,667

2002-03

	£
Professor Brice Dickson (Chief Commissioner)	60,000
Professor Christine Bell	4,397
Mrs. Margaret Ann Dinsmore	10,000
Mr. Tom Donnelly	10,000
Lady Christine Eames	10,000
Reverend Harold Good	10,000
Professor Tom Hadden	10,000
Ms Patricia Kelly	10,000
Dr. Inez McCormack	4,397
Dr. Christopher McGimpsey	10,000
Mr. Frank McGuinness	10,000
Mr. Kevin McLaughlin	10,000
Mr. Patrick Yu	10,000

2003-04

	£
Professor Brice Dickson (Chief Commissioner)	70,454
Margaret Ann Dinsmore	10,000
Mr. Tom Donnelly	10,000
Lady Christine Eames	10,000
Reverend Harold Good	9,167
Professor Tom Hadden	10,000
Ms Patricia Kelly	10,000
Dr. Christopher McGimpsey	5,872
Mr. Frank McGuinness	9,167
Mr. Kevin McLaughlin	10,000
Mr. Patrick Yu	2,654

2004-05

	£
Professor Brice Dickson (Chief Commissioner)	63,426
Margaret Ann Dinsmore	9,167
Mr. Tom Donnelly	9,167
Lady Christine Eames	10,000
Professor Tom Hadden	9,167
Ms Patricia Kelly	2,500
Mr. Kevin McLaughlin	10,000

2005-06

	£
Professor Monica McWilliams (Chief Commissioner)	36,154
Mr. Jonathan Bell	5,833
Mr. Thomas Duncan	5,833
Lady Christine Eames	10,000
Professor Colin Harvey	6,039
Mr. Alan Henry	5,833
Ms Ann Hope	5,833
Mr Eamonn O'Neill	5,833
Ms Geraldine Rice	5,833
Mr. Kevin McLaughlin	10,000

2006-07

	£
Professor Monica McWilliams (Chief Commissioner)	61,461
Mr. Jonathan Bell	10,000
Mr. Thomas Duncan	10,000
Lady Christine Eames OBE	10,000
Professor Colin Harvey	10,350
Mr. Alan Henry	10,000
Ms Ann Hope	10,000
Mr. Eamonn O'Neill	10,000
Ms Geraldine Rice MBE	10,000
Mr. Kevin McLaughlin	10,000

2007-08

	£
Professor Monica McWilliams (Chief Commissioner)	66,894
Mr. Jonathan Bell	10,000
Mr. Thomas Duncan	10,000
Lady Christine Eames OBE	6,667
Professor Colin Harvey	9,333
Mr. Alan Henry OBE	10,000
Ms Ann Hope	10,000
Mr. Colm Larkin	3,333
Mr. Kevin McLaughlin	6,667
Mr. Eamonn O'Neill	10,000
Ms Geraldine Rice MBE	10,000
Lady Daphne Trimble	3,333

2008-09

	£
Professor Monica McWilliams (Chief Commissioner)	72,021
Mr. Jonathan Bell	10,000
Mr. Thomas Duncan	10,000
Professor Colin Harvey	10,000
Mr. Alan Henry OBE	10,000
Ms Ann Hope	10,000
Mr. Colm Larkin	10,000
Mr. Eamonn O'Neill	10,000
Ms Geraldine Rice MBE	10,000
Lady Daphne Trimble	10,000

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days the Chairman of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) worked for the NIHRC in 2009. [308992]

Mr. Woodward: The position of Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission is a full-time post.

PRIME MINISTER

Domestic Visits: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* date, *(b)* destination and *(c)* purpose was of each visit to Wales made by the Prime Minister in each year since May 2005. [310275]

The Prime Minister: For my predecessor, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 May 2006, *Official Report,* column 1385W and the answer of 25 July 2007, *Official Report,* columns 1112-14W.

For my visits as Prime Minister I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statements of 22 July 2008, *Official Report,* columns 134-04WS and 16 July 2009, *Official Report,* column 76WS. A list of my UK visits for 2009-10 will be published in the usual way.

London Summit on Yemen

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has had discussions with President Obama on organisation of the London summit on Yemen. [309636]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press notice issued by my Office on 3 January 2010. A copy is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page21956

Political Broadcasting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to hold a televised debate with the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition in his official capacity as Prime Minister. [308785]

The Prime Minister: I have accepted in principle the proposal for televised debates between party leaders.

Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister what citizens' juries or summits he has attended since June 2007; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* subject was of each such event. [309923]

The Prime Minister: I regularly attend meetings with members of the public to hear their views on a wide variety of subjects.

OLYMPICS

Electric Vehicles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she plans to allocate funds for the installation of electric car charging points in the construction site of the Olympic village. [308481]

Tessa Jowell: The Athletes' Village plans and budget include electric car charging points which will remain after the games as part of London 2012's sustainable legacy.

Olympic Games 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether there are plans to mark the previous Olympic Games held in London during the London 2012 Olympics. [308475]

Tessa Jowell: The Cultural Olympiad is recognising the legacy of previous Olympics held in the UK through the annual Open Weekend celebrations which mark the countdown to London 2012, and the Inspire programme which recognises non-commercial projects genuinely inspired by 2012.

For example, the venues of the 1908 and 1948 London Olympic games have been celebrated through various Open Weekend projects including walking tours of the sites of the three London Olympic stadia. In the West Midlands, the 'Museums Keep Moving' Cultural Olympiad Inspire Mark exhibition explores the history and philosophy of the Much Wenlock Olympic games and its' role in inspiring Baron Pierre de Coubertin in founding the modern Olympics.

A number of sporting events were hosted at Stoke Mandeville Stadium as part of the Open Weekend celebrations, recognising Stoke Mandeville's status as the birthplace of the Paralympic games.

London 2012 and The Royal Mint produced a limited edition IVth Olympiad London Anniversary commemorative £2 coin in 2008 to mark the centenary of the 1908 London Olympic games.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of hosting the London 2012 *(a)* Olympic and *(b)* Paralympic Games. [308479]

Tessa Jowell: The public sector funding provision of £9.325 billion for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games that I announced in March 2007 remains unchanged and includes a £66 million contribution towards hosting the Paralympic games. The Olympic and Paralympic games are being hosted by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG).

Detailed financial information is given in the Government Olympic Executive's regular quarterly economic reports, including the anticipated final cost of the Olympic Delivery Authority's programme, the most recent of which was published in November 2009.

The next financial update will be included in the London 2012 annual report which will be published in February 2010. These reports do not include LOCOG's anticipated final costs as LOGOG is a private company funded almost entirely by private sources.

Olympic Games 2012: Hotels

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she plans to seek to increase the availability of hotel accommodation in London for the duration of the London 2012 Olympics. [308482]

Tessa Jowell: "Winning: a tourism strategy for 2012 and beyond", published in September 2007 by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in conjunction with VisitBritain and VisitLondon, identified the challenges to be met in order to maximise the economic benefits for the tourism industry from the London 2012 games. Key strategic aims are to increase the number of UK hotels accredited for quality; and to improve industry awareness of the needs of travellers with disabilities.

Currently, London has around 100,000 serviced accommodation rooms and recent research by VisitLondon estimates some 12,400 new rooms will open in London by 2012, with another potential 9,500 to be confirmed. VisitLondon will work with London's hotel operators to ensure new developments and upgraded hotels provide accessible accommodation.

Olympic Games 2012: Job Creation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many new jobs had been created as a consequence of the hosting of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such new jobs she expects to be created in each of the next three years. [308477]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) publishes data on the construction contractor workforce each quarter on the London 2012 website. The latest figures as at the end of September 2009, showed that 7,270 people were working on the Olympic Site, of which 2,428 were working on the Village. Of those working on the Park, 21 per cent. were people from the five Olympic host boroughs. The ODA expects construction on the Park and Village to have created work for 30,000 people by 2012, with the number of workers on site is expected to peak at 11,000 during 2010.

The employment legacy is not limited to those working on the Olympic site. Companies across the UK are winning Games related work, creating employment. The investment in major public projects, like the London 2012 Games, is also supporting the construction industry.

The ODA currently employs 222 people. This figure is forecasted to reduce as projects are completed.

LOCOG estimates that a contracted workforce of 100,000 people will be needed to stage the Games. It is also expected that new opportunities will be created in sectors such as tourism, leisure, hospitality—6,700 new opportunities are expected to be created in retail, hotels and restaurants—and in sport and media because of our hosting of the Games.

LOCOG currently employs approximately 500 people. This number is forecasted to rise to 1,000 people by December 2010, and to 1,700 by December 2011. The number of people employed by LOCOG during Games time is expected to reach 6,000 including temporary Games-time roles.

After the Games, up to 10,000 new permanent jobs are expected to be created on the Park, and more created in the wider Lower Lea valley as a result of the regeneration in the area.

Further to the creation of new employment opportunities, the London Development Agency and its partners, including Jobcentre Plus, aim to use the Games to reduce unemployment across the capital by 70,000 by 2012 through programmes such as Personal Best and the Employer Accord. By September 2009 it had achieved 14,000 against this target.

Olympic Games 2012: North West

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to ensure the North West region obtains a legacy from the London 2012 Olympics. [309388]

Tessa Jowell: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games established the Nations and Regions Group to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy for London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the Nations and English regions to maximise the sporting, commercial, cultural and other benefits of the 2012 Games.

Business in Leeds has already benefited from the contract opportunities linked to the London 2012 Games. Yorkshire and Humber region has won more than 119 London 2012 business contracts, 21 companies are based in Leeds.

As part of the programme to maximise the sporting opportunities for the regions Yorkshire has a total of 49 Pre Games Training Camps including John Charles Centre for Sport. The Dutch swimming team have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to use Leeds for their training for London 2012.

The London 2012 Cultural Olympiad project, which includes The Artists Taking the Lead, announced 'Leeds Canvas' as a winner. This is a 'first time ever' citywide collaboration between artists and arts organisations and will continue beyond 2012 leaving a cultural legacy for Leeds.

Also many schools in Leeds are participating in Get Set, the official London 2012 education programme for schools across the UK. To date, Leeds has 88 schools registered.

Olympic Games 2012: Transport

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she has plans to increase the frequency of *(a)* rail and *(b)* bus services between London and the other Olympic sites in 2012. [308473]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is working in partnership with TfL, rail operators, London buses and other bus operating companies serving venues outside of the Olympic Park to provide an enhanced level of service during the games.

This work is being informed by ODA's ongoing demand forecasting into rail and bus requirements and feedback from stakeholders on the second edition of ODA's Olympic Transport Plan which was issued for consultation in December 2009. The consultation closes on 19 March and is on ODA's website at:

http://www.london2012.com/making-it-happen/transport/transport-plan.php

Olympic Games in 2012: Northern Ireland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent discussions she has had with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of the Northern Ireland Executive on the contribution of Northern Ireland to the hosting of the London 2012 Olympics. [308470]

Tessa Jowell: UK nations and regions are realising the opportunities and benefits from the sporting, commercial, and cultural programmes offered by the 2012 games. Government officials, and the Nations and Regions Group (NRG), which includes representation from each of the nations and English regions, are in regular contact with officials in Northern Ireland.

In addition, the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure, Northern Ireland Assembly, who has the responsibility for sport, is a member of the Sporting Legacy Board which is chaired by the Minister for Sport in DCMS, and brings together sports leaders from across the UK.

Olympic Games in 2012: Scotland

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent discussions she has had with the First Minister of the Scottish Executive on the contribution of Scotland to the hosting of the London 2012 Olympic Games. [308471]

Tessa Jowell: I met with Shona Robinson, Minister for Public Health in Scotland to discuss London 2012 and the legacy opportunities for Scotland.

UK nations and regions are realising the opportunities and benefits from the sporting, commercial, and cultural programmes offered by the 2012 Games. Government officials, and the Nations and Regions Group (NRG), which includes representation from each of the nations and English regions, are in regular contact with officials in Scotland.

In addition, the Minister for Health and Sport, Scottish Executive, is a member of the Sporting Legacy Board which is chaired by the Minister for Sport in DCMS, and brings together sports leaders from across the UK.

Olympic Games in 2012: Wales

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent discussions she has had with the First Minister of the Welsh Assembly Government on the contribution of Wales to the hosting of the Olympic Games in 2012. [308469]

Tessa Jowell: UK nations and regions are realising the opportunities and benefits from the sporting, commercial, and cultural programmes offered by the 2012 games. Government officials, and the Nations and Regions Group (NRG), which includes representation from each of the nations and English regions, are in regular contact with officials in Wales.

The Minister for Heritage in the Welsh Assembly, who has the responsibility for sport, is a member of the Sporting Legacy Board which is chaired by the Minister for Sport in DCMS, and brings together sports leaders from across the UK.

Olympic Games: Canada

Kate Hoey: To ask the Minister for the Olympics for how many days *(a)* she and *(b)* officials of her Office expect to attend the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver in February in the course of their official duties; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse in each such case. [308979]

Tessa Jowell: Details of ministerial travel costing over £500 are published annually and include the cost, destination and purpose of the trip. It also provides information on the number of officials who accompany Ministers. The most recent list was published in July 2009 and the details of attendance at the Vancouver 2010 winter Olympic games will be included in the 2010 return.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much he expects his Department to spend on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print and *(d)* online advertising in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [310216]

Mr. Simon: For 2009-10 the overall budget allocated for advertising spend which can be identified from the Department's accounting system is £180,000. Individual allocations for television, radio, print and online advertising are not held on the Department's accounting system.

The business planning process is ongoing and the advertising allocations for 2010-11 have not been agreed yet.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* print, *(b)* online, *(c)* television and *(d)* radio advertising in each of the last five years; how much has been spent on advertising in 2009-10 to date; and what percentage of advertising expenditure in each year was managed by the Central Office of Information. [309902]

Mr. Simon: The expenditure on advertising recorded on the Department's accounting system is not analysed by the categories requested. The table sets out identifiable costs of recruitment advertising, which are predominantly print advertising.

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2009-10	5,380
2008-09	17,940
2007-08	36,150
2006-07	38,390
2005-06	105,450
2004-05	34,930

Expenditure incurred through the Central Office of Information (COI) relates to a range of activities, including advertising. To identify the advertising expense element would require an analysis of all COI invoices. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Allowances

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was claimed in *(a)* travel and *(b)* other expenses by (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in his Department in each of the last five years. [309741]

Mr. Simon: All travel by ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code' and the 'Civil Service Management Code' respectively, and other expenses are claimed in accordance with the principles set out in 'Managing Public Money'.

For the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09 the table sets out the travel and associated expenses claimed through travel and subsistence expense forms. The use of taxis is not analysed by Ministers and officials. Information relating to prior years can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. In addition to these costs, other travel and expense costs will have been incurred through centrally managed contracts, rather than individual expense claims.

£

Financial year	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*
Ministers' travel claims	0	570	950
Officials' travel claims	72,670	73,210	103,740
Taxi	3,590	4,360	5,290

Information relating to other expenses are allocated to individual policy areas and not centrally recorded against Ministers or officials. It is therefore not readily available and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309881]

Mr. Simon: This information is not readily available and could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff of each grade work for his Department at each location on services which it has contracted out; who the contractors and services are provided in each case; what the length of each contract is; and which union recognition agreements are in place with each contractor. [301599]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 24 November 2009]*: The information requested is provided in the table.

Service/contract	*Service received at*	*DCMS staff*	*Contractor name*	*Contract length*	*Union recognition agreement*
Facilities management	Cockspur Street (CS) and Tottenham Court Road (TCR)	1 grade 7and 1 grade HEO/SEO (staff based at CS)	MITIE	Contract expires 31 January 2010	No union agreement in place
Catering—staff restaurant	Cockspur Street (CS)	1 grade HEO/SEO (staff based at CS)	Baxter Storey	Contract expired 23 December 2009	No union agreement in place
Mailroom	Cockspur Street and TCR	1 grade HEO/SEO (staff based at CS)	Pitney Bowes	Contract expires 31 January 2010	No union agreement in place
Payroll	Cockspur Street and TCR	1 grade HEO/SEO and 1 grade EO (staff based at CS)	LogicaCMG	Contract expires 31/03/2013	No union agreement in place

Ruth Mackenzie

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the job specification is of his Department's expert adviser Ruth Mackenzie; what the difference is between a special adviser and an expert adviser in his Department; and on w[illegible] contractual terms Ruth Mackenzie is em[illegible] [30[illegible]

Mr. Simon: Ruth Mackenzie's role is to provide expert advice on cultural and broadcasting issues. She is on secondment from the Manchester International Festival. She was appointed by the Department, with the agreement of the Civil Service Commissioners. She is subject to the full requirements of the Civil Service Code—unlike special advisers who, as set out in the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, are exempt from some of its requirements and are directly appointed by Ministers.

Visits Abroad: Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department are planning to attend the Winter Olympics in Vancouver in February 2010 in an official capacity; and at what cost. [310257]

Mr. Simon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Vauxhall (Kate Hoey) on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 44W.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in the Leeds city area claimed attendance allowance in each of the last five years; [306575]

(2) how many people in Leeds West constituency claimed attendance allowance in each of the last five years. [306576]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table.

Attendance allowance—cases in payment in Leeds local authority area and Leeds West parliamentary constituency

	As at May each year				
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Leeds local authority area	14,090	14,360	14,510	14,740	15,130
Leeds West parliamentary constituency	1,550	1,590	1,630	1,640	1,690

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Cold Weather Payments

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times cold weather payments have been triggered in post code *(a)* FK10 and *(b)* PH1 since October 2009. [309655]

Helen Goodman: The cold weather payment scheme runs from 1 November to 31 March each year. Between 1 November 2009 and 6 January 2010 cold weather payments were triggered three times each in post code areas FK10 and PH1.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long on average elapsed between the occurrence of weather conditions triggering cold weather payments and such payments being made in 2008-09. [309743]

Helen Goodman: The payment of cold weather payments is a fully automated process. Once a cold weather payment is triggered, it takes three working days to make a payment into a customer's account. For the very small number of claims that are maintained clerically, it takes slightly longer to make a payment, but average times are not recorded.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account is taken of wind chill factors in the triggering of cold weather payments. [309744]

Helen Goodman: The cold weather payment scheme does not take account of wind chill factors.

Cold Weather Payments: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions cold weather payments have been triggered in MK post codes since October 2009. [310220]

Helen Goodman: The cold weather payment scheme runs from 1 November to 31 March each year. Up until 7 January 2010 post code MK has triggered twice.

Council Tax Benefits

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what discussions her Department has had with local authorities on proposals to rename council tax benefit as council tax rebate; [308712]

(2) what work her Department has undertaken to assess the merits of renaming council tax benefit as council tax rebate; and if she will make a statement; [308713]

(3) when she expects the renaming of council tax benefit as council tax rebate to take place; and if she will make a statement. [308750]

Helen Goodman: We are committed to making this change at the earliest opportunity. This change does have significant operational and delivery implications for local authorities. There will need to be numerous changes to their computer systems and to those used by Jobcentre Plus and Pension, Disability and Carers Service. Before we can be clear about the timetable for introducing the change we need to do further work to assess the full costs and the practical implications, including the impact it will have on take-up by conducting further research.

We have been and will continue to work closely with local authorities and their IT suppliers to assess the impact and costs of these changes and the fit with other initiatives the Department and local authorities have to deliver, so that renaming can be introduced at the earliest opportunity.

Departmental Training

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many overseas training courses were attended by her Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305891]

Angela Eagle: The Department does not hold records on the information requested centrally; individual business units retain records locally and as such this information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of individuals undergoing a work capability assessment following an application for employment and support allowance (ESA) have been found to be *(a)* ineligible for ESA, *(b)* eligible for work-related ESA and *(c)* eligible for support group ESA in each quarter since the inception of that allowance; and how many and what proportion of applicants for incapacity benefit were found to be ineligible as a result of undergoing the personal capability assessment in the latest year for which figures are available. [300388]

Jonathan Shaw: Such information as is available is published in 'Employment Support Allowance: Work Capability Assessment statistical release (October 2009)', a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

The publication is also available online at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca.asp

The published data summarise work capability assessment results for employment support allowance claims in Great Britain up to the end of February 2009.

Information on the results of the personal capability assessment is not available.

The available data, however, are based on recorded advice from Atos, rather than the Decision Maker's final determination. The final outcomes of cases may change. This will be further compounded by reconsiderations following additional medical evidence and the outcomes of appeals.

The available information is in the tables.

Monthly employment and support allowance on-flows by claim start and result of medical assessment

	2008			2009		
	October	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*Total*
Support Group	600	2,400	2,200	2,600	2,200	10,000
Work related activity group	1,000	4,800	4,500	6,000	5,300	21,600
Fit for work	3,300	16,000	13,800	18,600	17,100	68,800
Claim closed before assessment complete	3,500	17,700	15,900	19,800	17,600	74,500
Assessment still in progress	600	3,000	3,300	5,500	6,500	19,000
Total	9,100	43,900	39,600	52,500	48,700	193,800

1. Figures are round to the nearest 100.
2. Around 3 per cent. of assessments are made clerically. These figures are not included in this table.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions benefits data and Atos Healthcare medical assessment data

Monthly employment and support allowance on-flows by claim start and result of medical assessment expressed as percentages

	2008			2009		
	October	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*	*Overall*
Support group	7	6	6	5	4	5
Work related activity group	11	11	11	11	11	11
Fit for work	37	37	35	36	35	36
Claim closed before assessment complete	39	40	40	38	36	38
Assessment still in progress	6	7	8	11	13	10

The data presented combine three main data sources:

benefit claims data held by the Department for Work and Pensions covering new employment and support allowance claims between October 2008 to February 2009;

medical assessment data sourced from Atos Healthcare covering assessments completed between October 2008 and August 2009; and

appeals data sourced from Tribunals Service covering appeals heard up to July 2009.

The tables present assessment results by breaking down cohorts of employment and support allowance benefit claims. This is presented for claim starts to February 2009. Beyond this date the results are not reliable as many claims are still within the process.

National Statistics on employment and support allowance on-flows and caseload are published on the Department for Work and Pensions Tabulation Tool. Latest data available show there were 195,500 new employment and support allowance claims between 27 October 2008 and 28 February 2009.

Note that rounding and exclusion of clerical claims means the figures in the first table won't match the Tabulation Tool figures exactly.

52 per cent. of these employment and support allowance claims were assessed resulting in the following outcomes:

5 per cent. were assessed as suitable for the support group;

11 per cent. were assessed as suitable for the work related activity group; and

36 per cent. were assessed as being fit for work.

The remaining 48 per cent. either left employment and support allowance before completing assessment or assessment is still in progress.

Housing Benefit: East of England

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many rapid reclaims of housing benefit took more than 10 days to process *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Jobcentre Plus district in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available; what the target time is for processing such reclaims; and if she will make a statement. [308322]

Helen Goodman *[holding answer 6 January 2010]*: The requested information is not available.

Incapacity Benefit: Bedfordshire

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance claimants there were in South West Bedfordshire constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [310107]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table.

Number of incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance claimants in South West Bedfordshire—May 2009

	Incapacity benefit	*Employment and support allowance*
South West Bedfordshire	2,530	410

Notes:
1. Caseload has been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data published at:
www.nomisweb.co.uk
(incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance) and
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp
(employment and support allowance).
3. Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former miners have submitted claims for industrial injuries benefit for osteoarthritis of the knee to date; how many such claims have been *(a)* accepted and *(b)* rejected; and how many appeals against the rejection of a claim have been made. [307553]

Jonathan Shaw: Since the addition of osteoarthritis of the knee to the list of prescribed industrial diseases on 13 July 2009, 30,262 claims have been received.

10,396 have been processed, of which, 3,837 have received an award of, or an increase of, industrial injuries disablement benefit.

The total number of all appeals received is 1,330.

This information is based on an informal count by the Jobcentre Plus offices dealing with industrial injuries disablement benefit. We are looking into arrangements to publish this information as official statistics.

Local Housing Allowance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 48W, on local housing allowance, if she will undertake research into whether landlords discriminate against potential tenants who are on local housing allowance on the grounds that the benefit is not paid directly to the landlord. [309380]

Helen Goodman: The Department has committed to completing a review of the LHA scheme over a two-year period from the commencement of its roll-out in April 2008. The aim of the review is to monitor the impact of the LHA at a national level, against the original LHA policy objectives.

The review will include an in-depth focus group study of landlords, concerning their attitudes and experiences of the LHA, including direct payments.

Personal Accounts

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken on the economies of scale which will be generated by funds under management in personal accounts; [305964]

(2) what estimate she has made of the monetary value of the funds likely to be managed through the proposed personal accounts scheme. [305965]

Angela Eagle: The Department has not commissioned or undertaken such research.

However, the Personal Accounts Delivery Authority's engagement with stakeholders during their consultation ('Building Personal Accounts: Designing an Investment Approach', published on 7 May 2009), confirmed the scheme will benefit from economies of scale when investing future members' contributions. Responses to the consultation are summarised in, 'Building Personal Accounts: Designing an Investment Approach'. Key findings of the public consultation published November 2009.

The 'Impact Assessment for the Pensions Bill' (2007), published on the 24 April 2008 estimated there might be funds around £100 to 300 billion under management in the scheme by 2050, in 2007-08 earnings terms.

State Retirement Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will estimate the effect on the level of poverty among pensioners of paying all people reaching the state pension age in 2012-13 the full basic state pension in each of the subsequent three years. [308530]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 6 January 2010]*: The Department does not publish projections of pensioner poverty levels and therefore we are unable to answer the question.

Pensioner poverty is complex and dependent on a number of factors. Therefore projections would need to rely on many assumptions and as such would be subject to a significant degree of uncertainty.

Any current projection of the number of pensioners in poverty would be subject to uncertainties around future income growth, changes in the income distribution and individual changes in behaviour in response to policy changes. The Government therefore do not publish forward projections.

The proportion of pensioners in low income in the UK has fallen substantially over the last 10 years. There are 900,000 fewer pensioners in relative poverty in 2007-08 than in 1998-99 (measured as below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs are taken into account). A complete set of statistics can be found in the 'Households Below Average Income 2007-08' publication, found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai.asp

Unemployment: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps she has taken to reduce levels of unemployment in Leeds West constituency amongst disabled people since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [306952]

Jonathan Shaw: A number of steps have been taken to reduce levels of unemployment among disabled people since 2001.

In July 2001 the new deal for disabled people was launched. This is a programme of advice and practical support, which helps people move from disability and health-related benefits into paid employment. The programme is delivered through a network of 'job brokers' offering different services, which can be tailored to a customer's individual needs.

December 2007 saw the introduction of Pathways to Work in the West Yorkshire district, which includes the Leeds, West constituency. This programme helps claimants of incapacity benefits or employment and support allowance get work by offering individual support and access to a wide range of help, including work-focused interviews.

The public consultation "Helping People Achieve their Full Potential: Improving Specialist Disability Employment Services" was launched on 3 December 2007 to help shape the future of specialist disability employment provision. The new programme, Work Choice, which replaces existing specialist disability employment programmes, will be introduced in October 2010.

Employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefits for new customers nationally on 27 October 2008. Employment and support allowance has a greater work-focus than its predecessors. It also has a more modern and robust medical assessment, which helps to identify the help that people need to ensure they can fulfil their potential.

Access to Work is a specialist disability programme that helps disabled people overcome work-related obstacles. It is flexible, easy to access and shows high levels of satisfaction from disabled people and their employers. The Access to Work base budget has been increased from £15 million in 1994-95 to £81 million in 2009-10 and will continue to grow to £138 million by 2013-14. We are also working to improve the programme to ensure it helps people with mental health conditions more effectively.

The refreshed jobseeker's allowance regime and flexible new deal will go live in Leeds in April 2010. This is designed to offer personalised and more intensive support to customers, including those with disabilities, to help overcome barriers to work.

More generally, all jobseekers have full access to Jobcentre Plus vacancy services to enhance their employment opportunities. We recognise that some disabled customers may have a more limited availability and scope to find and carry out certain types of work. Therefore, at the start of their claim customers are asked to tell their adviser about any disabilities that might have such an impact, and can restrict their work search activity and availability for work if those restrictions are reasonable, given their condition.

Customers with a disability can volunteer to be fast-tracked to the six month stage of jobseeker's allowance, subject to the Jobcentre Plus personal advisers agreement. This allows disabled people to access additional intensive support earlier in their claim.

Disability employment advisers are available to provide specialist support to people facing employment barriers because of a disability. They can advise customers about a range of specialised support available, and provide advice on job retention if a person is concerned about losing their job because of their disability. They are supported by work psychologists and various external disability specialists.

Waste Disposal: Safety

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1337W, on waste disposal: safety, if she will request the Health and Safety Executive to undertake research on the safety of household refuse containers in relation to deliberate fires. [308547]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has no plans to assess the safety of household refuse containers (including "wheelie bins") in relation to deliberate fires. I do not intend to request them to do so as such incidents arise from criminal acts of arson, which is a matter for the police, and not HSE, whose remit is restricted to the health, safety and welfare of persons at work and others who may be affected by work activities. HSE is therefore involved in issues such as the safe lifting of wheelie bins on to refuse lorries, to which European standards apply, but the deliberate setting of fires in household refuse containers is outside any intended normal use and design criteria. Such arson attacks are tackled by the fire and rescue services and are investigated by the police under the Criminal Damage Act 1971.

Winter Fuel Payments: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Tamworth constituency are in receipt of winter fuel allowance; and how much her Department paid to such pensioners in winter fuel allowance in 2009. [309675]

Angela Eagle: For winter 2008-09, 18,590 older people received a winter fuel payment in Tamworth constituency at a cost of around £3.9 million.

Notes:

1. Payment figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
3. Expenditure rounded to the nearest £0.1 million.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of households in Tamworth constituency who will receive the *(a)* £250 and *(b)* £400 winter fuel payment in 2009-10. [309676]

Angela Eagle: For winter 2008-09, 10,920 households received a £250 winter fuel payment and 2,530 households received a £400 payment in Tamworth constituency.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Work Capability Assessment

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average time is taken for Atos Healthcare to deliver to the business user of the medical services contract a report following a work capability assessment; and if she will make a statement. [307181]

Jonathan Shaw: Atos Healthcare Medical Services are contracted to deliver new claims for employment support allowance requiring a work capability assessments to the business user in an actual average clearance time (AACT) of 35.0 working days. In November 2009, Atos Healthcare achieved an AACT of 33.5 working days.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: Security

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether all border guards who will operate the new full-body scanners at Heathrow airport have been subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check. [309605]

Paul Clark: All airport security staff who will operate the new full-body scanners have been subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects the review of aviation security announced in December 2009 to report. [309429]

Paul Clark: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary made a statement to the House announcing the initial outcome of the review of aviation security on Tuesday 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 28-41.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has made an assessment of the implications of the provisions of child protection legislation for the use of full-body scanners at Heathrow Airport. [309634]

Paul Clark: The introduction of the scanners is a necessary additional measure in response to the heightened threat to the travelling public. Their application to passengers including children, with the proposed safeguards as to their use, is a proportionate response to the heightened threat. The use of body scanners is compatible with the Protection of Children Act 1978. The use of scanners will be subject to a code of practice which is being developed by the Department for Transport and airport operators.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what date he has set for equipping of all UK international airports with full body scanners. [309950]

Paul Clark: We have not set such a date. However, we are discussing urgently with the airport industry the widespread roll-out of scanners at UK airports as soon as practicable.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when the first full body scanner in a UK airport is scheduled to start operation. [309951]

Paul Clark: The first scanner is expected to be operational at Heathrow airport within about three weeks.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will assess the compatibility with child protection legislation of the operation of full body scanners in UK airports; and if he will make a statement. [309952]

Paul Clark: The introduction of the scanners is a necessary additional measure in response to the heightened threat to the travelling public. Their application to passengers including children, with the proposed safeguards as to their use, is a proportionate response to the heightened threat. The use of body scanners is compatible with the Protection of Children Act 1978. The use of scanners will be subject to a code of practice which is being developed by the Department for Transport and airport operators.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what funding his Department plans to make available to UK airports for the installation of full body scanners. [309953]

Paul Clark: The funding of body scanners will be a matter for airport operators.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he plans to issue guidance on operating the full body scanners proposed to be installed at UK airports. [309954]

Paul Clark: The code of practice is under urgent development and will be finalised as soon as possible.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the body scanners to be deployed at airports will use passive millimetre wave technology. [310145]

Paul Clark: No. The body scanners to be deployed at UK airports will use either active millimetre wave or backscatter technology.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether individuals who wish not to use body scanners at airports will be able to opt for a manual pat down search. [310146]

Paul Clark: No. Individuals who are asked to use the body scanner but decline to do so will not be permitted to fly.

Aviation: Snow and Ice

Danny Alexander: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what steps he has taken to ensure an adequate supply of airport and aircraft de-icing fluid during the current cold weather; [309730]

(2) what monitoring his Department undertakes of the availability of aircraft and airport de-icing fluid; [309801]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the level of risk to transport *(a)* within and *(b)* departing from the UK of shortages in the availability of airport and aircraft de-icing fluid. [309802]

Paul Clark: Sourcing of sufficient quantities of airport surface and airframe de-icer compounds are commercial matters for privately-owned airport operators and airlines, with the relevant suppliers. The Department for Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority have, however, been in contact with airport operators and airlines throughout the period of severe weather to monitor the operation of the supply chain. The Department has also agreed to a temporary and limited relaxation of the enforcement of EU drivers' hours and working-time rules, up to the end of Monday 11 January for those hauliers involved in the distribution of de-icer products direct to airports.

Buses: Concessions

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many *(a)* over-60 year olds and *(b)* disabled people resident in Tamworth constituency made use of free off-peak bus travel in the latest period for which figures are available. [309656]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport is not responsible for issuing passes and so does not maintain records of how many passes individual authorities have issued.

Tamworth is part of the Staffordshire county concessionary travel scheme. The last information held by the Department was that as of 17 April 2009, the Staffordshire county scheme had issued 125,787 of the new smartcard concessionary passes. This includes passes issued to disabled people as well as those aged 60 and over as the Department does not have a breakdown of figures.

Corby Station

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many passengers *(a)* boarded and *(b)* alighted from trains at Corby railway station on each day since 8 September 2009. [309632]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold the requested information on passengers using Corby railway station.

This is a matter for the train operator, East Midlands Trains, which provides services to and from Corby. East Midlands Trains can be contacted at the following address:

Mr. Tim Shoveller
Managing Director
East Midlands Trains
1 Prospect Place
Millennium Way
Pride Park
Derby
DE24 8HG

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307794]

Chris Mole: A table setting out the title of each piece of secondary legislation creating an offence within the scope of the question, the number of offences created by that piece of legislation and a general description of the offences is listed as follows.

More detail about the offences created and information about offences that have been abolished (other than in respect of the revocation of the Air Navigation Order 2005 (see as follows)) could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Offences contained in the Air Navigation Order 2005 were abolished when that Order was replaced by the Air Navigation Order 2009 (see the entry for the Air Navigation (Amendment) Order 2009 in the table).

While all reasonable efforts have been made by the Department to ascertain what offences have been created by secondary legislation since 1 May 2008, it is impossible to guarantee that every new offence has been noted in the enclosed table without incurring disproportionate cost in terms of officials' time. For example: where an instrument extends an existing provision to cover a new situation it might not be apparent that an offence was involved without further research and this would require a significant amount of time.

Title of the secondary legislation	*Number of offences created*	*General description of offences*
The London Gateway Port Harbour Empowerment Order 2008	6	Obstructing works/officers
The Cross-border Railway Services (Working Time) Regulations 2008	7	Failing to comply with various provisions of the Regulations
The Felixstowe Branch Line and Ipswich Yard Improvement Order 2008	3	Obstructing works/disclosing confidential information
The Air Navigation (Environmental Standards For Non-EASA Aircraft) Order 2008	2	Contravening any provision of the Order (in two groups, divided according to penalty)
The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships) Regulations 2008	47	Contravention of various provisions of the Regulations by various people
The Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage and Garbage from Ships) Regulations 2008	49	Contravention of various provisions of the Regulations by various people
The Operation of Air Services in the Community Regulations 2009	9	Failing to comply with various provisions of the Regulations
The Street Works (Charges for Unreasonably Prolonged Occupation of the Highway) (England) Regulations 2009	1	Failing to give any notice required by the Regulations
The Road Safety (Immobilisation, Removal and Disposal of Vehicles) Regulations 2009	5	Failing to comply with various provisions of the Regulations
The Road Vehicles (Approval) Regulations 2009	9	Failing to comply with various provisions of the Regulations

Title of the secondary legislation	*Number of offences created*	*General description of offences*
The Nottingham Express Transit System Order 2009	9	Failing to comply with various provisions of the Order
The Air Navigation (Single European Sky) (Penalties) Order 2009	25	Failing to comply with various provisions of the Order
The Air Navigation (Amendment) Order 2009	10	Failing to comply with various provisions of the Air Navigation Order 2005 (The 2005 Order and the 2009 Amendment Order were revoked by the Air Navigation Order 2009)
The Motor Cycles Etc. (Replacement of Catalytic Converters) Regulations 2009	4	Failing to comply with various provisions of the Regulations
The Motor Vehicles (Replacement of Catalytic Converters and Pollution Control Devices) Regulations 2009	7	Failing to comply with various provisions of the Regulations
The Port Security Regulations 2009	14	Failing to comply with various provisions of the Regulations
The Channel Tunnel (International Arrangements) (Amendment) Order 2009	1	Making of false statements etc under or for the purposes of the Channel Tunnel (International Arrangements) Order 2005
The Penzance Harbour Revision Order 2009	4	Failing to comply with various provisions of the Order
The London Underground (Victoria Station Upgrade) Order 2009	3	Obstructing works/disclosing confidential information
The Merchant Shipping (Anti-Fouling Systems) Regulations 2009	15	Contravention of various provisions of the Regulations by various people
The Air Navigation Order 2009	9	Failing to comply with various provisions of the Order
The Merchant Shipping (Implementation of Ship-Source Pollution Directive) Regulations 2009	4	Contravention of various provisions of other Regulations

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the (i) subject and (ii) location of each away day was. [308674]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport can only provide the cost, subject and location of away days for the last 12 months by incurring disproportionate costs.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Databases

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on how many occasions the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database was accessed by *(a)* police forces, *(b)* other public agencies and *(c)* private companies in each of the last five financial years; and what estimate he has made of the number of such requests which will be made in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [309720]

Paul Clark: The information requested is not held in the format requested.

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his policy is on allowing private companies access to information on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database for commercial purposes. [309722]

Paul Clark: Information held on the 'driver' record may only be disclosed to private companies for commercial purposes with the explicit consent of the individual and when there is a demonstrable need to confirm an entitlement to drive. For example, when hiring a vehicle or driving as a condition of employment.

Information held on the 'vehicle' record may be disclosed under provisions of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002. This provides for the release of information to those who can demonstrate "reasonable cause" to require it, such as an issue around the vehicle and its use. Disclosure generally results from incidents where the motorist has incurred some form of liability. It is recognised that motorists have an obligation to comply with road traffic and other regulations when using a vehicle and to act responsibly and with consideration for other road users, pedestrians and landowners in doing so.

Any private car parking company seeking information about the keeper of a specific vehicle must be a member of a DVLA Accredited Trade Association and conform to its code of practice. DVLA provides vehicle data, containing no personal details, to commercial customers for statistical use and to provide vehicle check services to consumers when purchasing a second-hand vehicle or parts for their current vehicle.

Information is also supplied to assist in safety recalls from time to time.

All disclosures of information are made in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection and Human Rights Acts. Requests for information are subject to audit to ensure they respect agreements and legislation.

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport which *(a)* police forces, *(b)* other public agencies and *(c)* private companies are permitted access to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database to obtain (i) details of vehicle registration numbers, (ii) names of licence holders and (iii) private addresses of licence holders. [309723]

Paul Clark: No organisation has direct access into the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) records.

Information from both the driver and vehicle record is provided daily to the National Police Improvement Agency for inclusion on the Police National Computer system for use by all police forces. All other requests for information are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Private addresses of driving licence holders may be provided to public agencies with the consent of the individual or if they have a statutory right to it e.g. HM Revenue and Customs, the Child Support Agency and the Department for Work and Pensions. These requests generally relate to law enforcement activities.

DVLA does not provide the name or address details of licence holders to any private companies, only details relating to their driving entitlement and endorsements. Employers, recruitment agencies and private companies, such as car hire companies, may make a request for details of a driver record if they have the consent of the individual and provide their name, address and date of birth.

Vehicle registration numbers need to be provided to the DVLA in order for a search of the vehicle record to be made. Therefore, DVLA does not disclose details of vehicle registration numbers from the vehicle record.

Eurostar

Mr. Gale: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proposals are under consideration for the provision of alternative services to Eurostar using the Channel Tunnel rail link; when such services could be operational; and if he will make a statement. [310108]

Chris Mole: As of January this year, new European regulations allow train companies to operate international services across Europe on an open access basis.

The Government welcome this. We want to see new services and competition on Highspeed1.

It is for individual companies to come forward to introduce services.

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309055]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not record numbers of hotel room nights centrally, and the information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. No fees have been paid to third party booking agents in the period since 2007.

All expenditure is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Kettering Station

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many passengers travelling *(a)* north and *(b)* south on the Midland mainline (i) boarded and (ii) alighted from trains at Kettering station on each day since 8 September 2009. [309633]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold the requested information on passengers using Kettering railway station.

This is matter for the train operator, East Midlands Trains, which provides services to and from Kettering. East Midlands Trains can be contacted at the following address:

Mr Tim Shoveller
Managing Director
East Midlands Trains
1 Prospect Place
Millennium Way
Pride Park
Derby
DE24 8HG

M6

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) if he will require the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency to meet residents in Walsall North constituency who are adversely affected by the M6 motorway work on the site of the work, as requested by the hon. Member for Walsall North; [309731]

(2) for what reasons the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency did not agree to meet residents on the site within the Walsall North constituency who are adversely affected by the M6 motorway work; and if he will make a statement; [309732]

(3) if he will ensure that the Chief Executive or Deputy Chief Executive of the Highways Agency meets residents on sites where work authorised by the agency is taking place when requested to do so by hon. Members. [309733]

Chris Mole: The Chief Executive of the Highways Agency has offered to meet the hon. Member and representatives of local residents at the Agency's offices, or at the construction site offices, where he believes a constructive discussion can be held to agree what, if any, further action by the Highways Agency's contractor is needed to mitigate the disturbance to residents.

The Chief Executive has personally investigated complaints by the hon. Member's constituents and ensured that any shortcomings were rectified. This includes asking the contractor's main board director to ensure that he delivers a plan for improving neighbour relations.

The Chief Executive has assured me on several occasions that he is willing to meet with any Member of this House to discuss particular matters affecting constituents, and has done this with several hon. Members in the past.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions *(a)* Ministers in his Department and *(b)* officials in the Secretary of State's private office have had with the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency on the adverse effects on residents of work carried out on the M6 motorway in Walsall North constituency; and if he will make a statement. [310071]

Chris Mole: The Secretary of State for Transport and I have regular meetings with the Chief Executive of the Highways Agency to discuss all aspects of the Agency's business, including the concerns of residents affected by the scheme being carried out on the M6 motorway in the Walsall, North constituency.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) for what reasons residents in Walsall North constituency likely to be adversely affected by current work authorised by the Highways Agency on the M6 motorway were not directly informed of the work planned by the Agency; and if he will instruct the

Highways Agency directly to notify those likely to be adversely affected by its planned work in all areas in addition to its practice of placing advertisements in the press; [310072]

(2) if he will ensure that when work is authorised by the Highways Agency that is likely to adversely affect residents hon. Members representing the constituency or constituencies concerned are notified. [310078]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency has established procedures in place for notifying any local residents or businesses likely to be affected by planned works, as well as placing advertisements in the local press. These can include letter drops, locally held exhibitions and press-releases prior to the commencement of works. In addition, hon. Members, within whose constituencies work is due to take place are given advance warning of the start of works. Local councillors are also routinely advised.

In schemes where work takes place entirely within the existing highway boundary, as is the case with the current M6 motorway works in the Walsall, North constituency, there is no obligation upon the Highways Agency to give such additional publicity. However, in view of the close proximity of residents in this case, arrangements were made within the contract for a site-liaison officer to be appointed to regularly communicate with local residents about the progress of the scheme.

In addition, following representations made by residents' groups, regarding works on the M6 in the Walsall, North constituency further measures have been put in place to keep residents informed. These include regular newsletters and visits by the site-liaison officer to affected residents.

With regard to the notification of Members whose constituency is adversely affected by major work, it is the Highways Agency's standing practice to give such notification. In the case of this project, my hon. Friend was included in the original notification to MPs and MEPs, sent on 10 September 2008, prior to the commencement of the works.

Motor Vehicles: Safety

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what regulations govern requirements about the location of lights on vehicles to demonstrate the dimensions of the vehicle. [310124]

Paul Clark: The location of lights, including those to indicate the dimensions of vehicles, is set out in the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989.

In general vehicles must have front and rear position lights fitted within 400 mm of the edge of the vehicle. (For trailers, however, only those above a certain width are required to have front position lamps.) Larger vehicles must also be fitted with end outline marker lamps, and side marker lamps to indicate their width, length and height.

Motorways

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many motorway inter-junction links there are on *(a)* motorways and *(b)* dual carriageways in England. [308458]

Chris Mole: The Strategic Road Network in England is made up of the national motorway and All Purpose Trunk Road (APTR) network. It has *(a)* 1,056 junction to junction motorway links; and *(b)* 939 major dual carriageway junction to junction links on APTR. There are also 464 major single carriageway junction to junction APTR links.

Each link is for a single direction only, and for APTRs there may be additional minor junctions within links.

Public and Commercial Services Union

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the staff-in-post figure is for those grades of staff in relation to which the Public and Commercial Services Union is recognised in *(a)* the Highways Agency, *(b)* the Maritime and Coastguards Agency and *(c)* the Vehicle Certification Agency. [306511]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 14 December 2009]*: The following tables provide the staff in post figures for those grades of staff for which the Highways Agency, the Maritime and Coastguards Agency and the Vehicle Certification Agency recognises the Public and Commercial Services Union:

Highways Agency

Grade	*Staff in post*
AA	[1]—
AO	243
EO	403
HEO	586
SEO	460
Grade 7	251
Grade 6	77

[1] Departmental policy is to suppress figures where there are fewer than five individuals on grounds of confidentiality.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Grade	*Staff in post*
AA	148
AO	410
EO	253
HEO	137
SEO	171
Grade 7	95
Grade 6	18

Vehicle Certification Agency

Grade	*Staff in post*
AA	6
AO	34
EO	29
HEO	[1]—
SEO	9
Grade 7	[1]—
Grade 6	[1]—

[1] Departmental policy is to suppress figures where there are fewer than five individuals on grounds of confidentiality.

Railways

Robert Key: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for what reasons rail franchises specify required revenue protection systems. [310057]

Chris Mole: Some franchise specifications have included requirements to install ticket gates at specific stations. These requirements are based upon detailed business case analysis and expected revenue increases. In some cases these are specified within the contract because they have a pay-back period longer than the franchise term. Such schemes increase the value of the franchise in future years, reducing the long term cost of the railway to the taxpayer.

Bidders are also required to detail their wider revenue protection strategies as part of their bids.

Bidders have proposed gating schemes as part of their own revenue protection strategies and where these are offered the Department for Transport seeks to contractualise this commitment.

Railways: Concessions

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what mechanisms are in place to prevent the loss of concessionary travel facilities for former employees of a rail business which becomes insolvent; and who the guarantor of last resort is in such cases. [309447]

Chris Mole: The Association of Train Operating Companies ('ATOC') Rail Staff Travel Scheme includes provisions which enable employees who have been made redundant as the result of an insolvent event to continue to receive leisure travel services.

While the Secretary of State approves any proposed changes to the rail staff travel scheme, it is ATOC that operates the Scheme. ATOC may be contacted at:

3rd Floor
40 Bernard Street
London WC1N 1BY
Telephone: 020 7841 8000

Railways: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what meetings his Department has had with the Department of Energy and Climate Change on policies to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the rail network. [309762]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport works closely with the Department of Energy and Climate Change on a wide range of issues relating to carbon emissions from transport modes, including rail. Consequently, officials from the two Departments are in regular contact and meet on a frequent basis to discuss these and other issues.

Railways: West Yorkshire

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much his Department has spent on rail transport in West Yorkshire since 2005; and if he will make a statement. [306997]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not hold data on public spending in this level of detail. However, table A9 of the Department's Annual Report and Accounts sets out details of expenditure on the railways by region. Copies of the report are available in the Library of the House and on the Department's website at:

www.dft.gov.uk

Road Salting and Gritting

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 544W, on road salting and gritting, when he plans to publish his Department's response to the report of the UK Roads Liaison Group on the preparedness of highway authorities for extreme weather events. [309450]

Mr. Khan: A written statement was made to Parliament on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 122-24WS outlining the Department for Transport's response to the report of the UK Road Liaison Group on highway authorities' preparedness for extreme weather events. This was also published on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/press/speechesstatements/statements/uk-roads

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Highways Agency and *(b)* Salt Union on the distribution of salt to the Highways Agency and local authorities since 9 February 2009. [309539]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 7 January 2010]*: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Both during February 2009 and immediately following the winter season, a number of discussions were held between the Department for Transport and the Highways Agency to discuss issues arising from the winter and to contribute to the related Transport Select Committee (TSC) hearing and other related events requiring briefing information. Following the TSC hearing, the UK Roads Liaison Group led a review into the severe weather of February 2009, comprising input from the Highways Agency, salt suppliers and the Department for Transport, as well as local authority representation. Discussions between the Department for Transport and Highways Agency were held in both carrying out the review and compiling the subsequent report. Department for Transport Ministers have also had a number of discussions with the Highways Agency to discuss winter resilience, including the distribution of salt.

(b) Department for Transport officials have also had a number of discussions with Salt Union and others on similar issues.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what agreements are in place between the Highways Agency and local authorities for the provision of assistance to authorities which require additional salt stocks during extreme weather conditions. [309540]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 7 January 2010]*: During periods of severe weather, requests for additional salt stocks from another highway authority (commonly known as mutual aid) are considered on an individual basis.

Consideration is given to the criticality of salt stock levels of both the requesting and potential providing authority together with the current weather being experienced. Where possible the Highways Agency will provide mutual aid assistance to other authorities, where this will not impact on the agency's treatment of its network.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport with reference to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 859W, on roads: snow and ice, how many snow ploughs the Highways Agency has bought since February 2009; and how many it intends to buy in the next 12 months. [309541]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 7 January 2010]:* Since February 2009, the Highways Agency has purchased a total of 188 salt spreaders, all with snow plough attachments, with a further 90 due to be purchased in the next 12 months. This will complete the winter fleet replacement.

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress has been made in implementing the proposals of the UK Roads Liaison Group in relation to severe winter weather; and if he will make a statement. [309800]

Mr. Khan: Local roads are the responsibility of local highway authorities. Strategic roads are managed by the Highways Agency.

The UK Road Liaison Group (UKRLG) report contains 19 recommendations. Most of the recommendations are addressed to local highway authorities and salt suppliers. It will be for these organisations to decide how best to adopt the recommendations.

Four recommendations were specifically addressed to this Department and the Highways Agency. My written statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 122-24WS advised what action had been taken by this Department and the Highways Agency consistent with those recommendations. These recommendations have been adopted.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that local highway authorities are fully compensated by utility companies for the additional maintenance costs incurred as a result of activities by those companies. [309724]

Mr. Khan: Companies carrying out works in the street have a legal duty to reinstate roads to the condition they were in before works began. Compliance with this duty will minimise any need for additional maintenance by the highway authority.

Highway authorities are responsible for enforcing this duty. They may inspect reinstatements, and if they find them to be inadequate, they have powers to require the undertaker to carry out the reinstatement again to the correct standard. If undertakers fail to comply, the authority may carry out the necessary works and recover the costs reasonably incurred by them doing so.

Standards for reinstatements are set out in the statutory Specification for Reinstatement of Openings in the Highway Code of Practice. The Department for Transport intends to publish revised and updated guidance in April this year.

Taxis: Licensing

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what plans he has to reduce the number of unlicensed minicab drivers; [309439]

(2) what estimate has been made of the number of unlicensed minicab drivers operating in each of the last four years. [309440]

Mr. Khan: In order to offer a private hire vehicle (PHV) service lawfully in England (outside London), the operator, the driver and the vehicle must be licensed by the relevant local authority under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. It is a matter for local licensing authorities to ensure vehicles are licensed in the correct manner, to make assessments of the extent of illegal operation in their area and take appropriate enforcement action where necessary. We do not keep a central record of any such assessments. The Department for Transport issues guidance to local authorities in this respect.

Thameslink Railway Line: Rolling Stock

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when his Department plans to announce the successful bidder for the Thameslink rolling stock contract. [310060]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport is currently planning to award the Thameslink order around autumn of this year.

Traffic Lights

Tim Farron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost of replacing all traffic lights with incandescent bulbs with light emitting diodes. [310143]

Mr. Khan: Procurement of traffic lights is a matter for individual highways authorities. The Department for Transport has made no estimate of the cost of replacing all tungsten halogen traffic lights with light emitting diodes.

Light emitting diode (LED) traffic lights can offer significant energy savings and we are keen for highway authorities to take advantage of their potential. The supply industry and UK highway authorities are working to address the remaining technical and economic issues, and so achieve greater adoption of such lights.

Transport

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what target he has set for the construction of miles of new *(a)* road and *(b)* rail by 2015. [305618]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The Department for Transport has neither targets for the construction of specific distances of road and rail.

Transport: EC Action

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the outcome was of the December EU Transport Council, with particular reference to the discussions on intelligent transport systems; and if he will make a statement. [309627]

Mr. Khan: The December Transport Council took place during the recess. I therefore reported on the outcome of the Council, including the outcome of discussions on intelligent transport systems, in a letter to the Hon. Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee. The text of that letter is as follows:

"I attended the second Transport Council of the Swedish Presidency, in Brussels on 17 December.

The Council reached a Political Agreement on a Regulation on the rights of passengers in bus and coach transport. The Regulation aims to make bus and coach transport more attractive, particularly to disabled people and people with reduced mobility; and to create a level playing field across Europe, both between operators and different modes of transport. I was one of several Ministers to maintain reservations on the scope, asking for the Regulation to apply only to long-distance national and international services. Some other Member States argued strongly for widening the scope. The Presidency offered a compromise of removing the compensation and assistance provisions from the application to urban, suburban and regional services. This means that the only provisions from which Member States would not be able to exempt such services would be those requiring that ticket prices and conditions must [illegible] offered without any discrimination based on nationality or the place of establishment of the carrier, and that there must be no discrimination on grounds of disability or reduced mobility with regard to booking a journey or boarding a vehicle. This compromise was acceptable to all, and on this basis I accepted the text of the Political Agreement.

The Council agreed a General Approach on the proposal for an amending Regulation on the establishment of structures for the management of the European satellite radio-navigation programmes. The text of the General Approach was acceptable to the UK.

There was a Progress Report on a Directive on the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). I joined some other Ministers in opposing mandatory deployment. We only support the further deployment of ITS where there is a sound business case for doing so in pursuit of our transport goals. I expressed the UK view that such decisions should be for Member States, and my understanding that nothing in this Directive prejudices that right. We will continue to regard this as critical in discussions on any future proposals. The Presidency hoped that the Directive could be adopted as soon as possible during the New Year and that agreement will be reached with the European Parliament.

There was also a Progress report on a proposed Directive on aviation security charges. The UK will continue to work towards achieving a fair and proportionate outcome that balances the interests of passengers and airports.

The Council reached a General Approach on a Directive on reporting formalities for ships arriving in and/or departing from EU ports. The Directive seeks to facilitate maritime transport by simplifying administrative procedures for ships travelling between EU ports by the introduction of streamlined electronic reporting. I stated that the UK still has some concerns relating to the consistency of the Directive with our e-Borders system. We will seek to see these resolved at a later stage of the negotiating process.

The Council was unable to agree to the draft Conclusions on the Commission's Communication "A sustainable future for transport: Towards an integrated, technology-led and user friendly system". Following the debate therefore, the Presidency issued Conclusions to be used to provide a steer to the Commission on priorities for the next EU Transport White Paper, which is due in 2010.

The Council adopted a Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate an agreement with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), providing a general framework for enhanced cooperation, with priority given to aviation safety issues in the first instance. We welcome this development. The Presidency made clear that the Decision does not affect relations between individual Member States and ICAO, nor does it affect the arrangements for preparing Community positions for meetings of the ICAO Council.

There was a Progress Report from the Commission on the negotiation of a second stage air transport agreement with the US. I joined some others in suggesting that the next Transport Council should review progress and consider any new US proposals, particularly on the key issue of investment reform. The Council took note of the state of play, confirmed the importance of reaching a deal in 2010, and noted signs of progress in some areas, but stressed the need for significant progress in other areas (including investment reform and the environment).

Under AOB, the Commission informed the Council that the outcome of the Galileo procurement process would be announced in a few months time."

West Coast Railway Line: Finance

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) how much has been spent on West Coast Main Line stations in 2009-10 to date; [310056]

(2) what funds remain to be spent on West Coast Main Line stations in 2009-10. [310064]

Chris Mole: This information is not collated at route level by the Department for Transport. Network Rail is the custodian of the railway infrastructure, including stations. The Department for Transport defined the strategy and outputs required from the upgrade of the West Coast Main Line, while funding for the works was provided by Network Rail. The hon. Member should, therefore, contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his question:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of implementing the European Commission's proposal for a voluntary community animal welfare label for the purposes of standardising labelling of food with animal welfare information. [308292]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The EC has outlined a number of options for animal welfare labelling in a recently published report 'Options for animal welfare labelling and the establishment of a European network of Reference Centres for the protection and welfare of animals'. Our approach to welfare labelling will be guided by general principles which we are developing with the EC.

Animal Welfare: Circuses

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hereford of 7 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 6-7W, on animal welfare: circuses, what source was referred to in the Answer as the findings of the first element; when those findings were discussed with *(a)* animal welfare representatives and *(b)* industry organisations; and which organisations participated in those discussions. [309415]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The source referred to in the answer of 7 December, the first element of the Circus Feasibility Study, was the report and recommendations of the two zoo licensing inspectors who visited two circuses while travelling, and one at their winter quarters.

The wider findings of the circus feasibility study were discussed on 26 October with animal welfare organisations, including representatives from the RSPCA, Animal Defenders International, Captive Animals Protection Society and the Born Free Foundation. A similar meeting took place with representatives from the circus industry, including Performing Animal Welfare Standards International, Circus Mondao, Bobby Roberts Super Circus and the Great British Circus on 22 October.

Biodiversity

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of implementation in the UK of the Biodiversity Action Plan. [309700]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We measure the effectiveness of implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan through the UK Biodiversity Indicators. This was reported in the National Statistics publication 'Biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket 2007', which was updated most recently in April 2009.

Overall, 23 (72 per cent.) of the 32 measures that comprise the UK Biodiversity Indicators are 'improving' or show 'little or no overall change' since the year 2000. In particular, 89 per cent. of Sites of Special Scientific Interest are in favourable or recovering condition, agri-environment schemes are leading to significant improvements, and people are spending a lot more time volunteering on biodiversity conservation projects.

Christmas Trees

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has budgeted for Christmas trees in 2009. [305718]

Dan Norris *[holding answer 10 December 2009]*: The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has no specific Christmas tree budget in 2009. Provision is included within the fixed cost of providing grounds maintenance services to the Department delivered by the workplace support contract.

Within this contract the total expenditure on (decorated) Christmas trees for 2009 is £1,129.00.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on art works in the last 12 months. [306444]

Dan Norris: From information held centrally, the core-Department had no expenditure on artworks in the last 12 months. As a general rule, all works of art displayed are from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. The most recent details of acquisition made by the GAC were published on 5 October 2009 and are available on the GAC website:

http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/information/publications.asp

Departmental Assets

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in each year from 2009-10 to 2013-14; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; what the expected revenue from each such sale is; and if he will make a statement. [300200]

Dan Norris: The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion in asset disposals over the period 2011-14 and they published further details of opportunities to commercialise business assets in the Operational Efficiency Programme: Asset Prospectus on 7 December 2009. This presented different options for ownership on a number of public sectors assets. British Waterways and the Public Forest Estate in England were the two DEFRA assets included in the prospectus—the Government do not currently have plans to sell either asset.

The Department has approximately £6.9 million (book value £10.2 million) of surplus properties for disposal this year arising from the sale of land, residential and office premises. Anticipated disposals from land and laboratory premises are expected to realise £9 million in 2010-11 (book value £8 million) and £2 million in 2011-12 (book value £10 million). There are currently no identified disposals for years beyond 2011-12.

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307960]

Dan Norris: The following table shows the percentage of invoices paid within 10 days by the core-Department and, the volume of invoices received where the data are available.

Month	*Invoice volume*	*10 day performance (percentage)*
November 2008	n/a	33.5
December 2008	n/a	77.1
January 2009	n/a	99.8
February 2009	n/a	99.8

Month	*Invoice volume*	*10 day performance (percentage)*
March 2009	n/a	99.4
April 2009	n/a	99.7
May 2009	3,091	99.9
June 2009	2,799	99.8
July 2009	3,141	99.8
August 2009	2,439	100
September 2009	2,442	99.7
October 2009	2,956	100
November 2009	2,070	99.95

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings in the last 12 months. [305686]

Dan Norris: The Department has spent nothing in the last 12 months on refurbishment works in respect of offices allocated to Ministers.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department was of holding the Waste and Resources Action Programme exhibition in the Palace of Westminster in November 2009. [308353]

Dan Norris: The exhibition space in the Upper Waiting Hall in Parliament is provided free of charge for one week to not-for-profit organisations that wish to inform parliamentarians of their work. Such organisations must be supported by their local Member of Parliament, who applies for the space on their behalf. Government-funded organisations such as the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) must also gain the approval of their sponsoring Department.

The cost of designing and constructing the exhibition stand and display materials used by WRAP in Parliament was £8,200. These will be used at future exhibitions and events, with almost all elements of the stand and its display materials being reusable. In line with WRAP's remit to promote resource efficiency, the stand is made from cardboard containing 75 per cent. recycled content, and is fully recyclable at the end of its life, unlike traditional exhibition stands.

The exhibition, designed to demonstrate how resource efficiency could benefit businesses across the UK, generated considerable interest among hon. Members and their staff.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308826]

Dan Norris: The Department and its agencies run conferences on specific issues where will feel benefit will be had. Where appropriate we send delegates to other organisations' conferences whose work is relevant to our own.

Statistics on conferences are not collated centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will reply to the letter from Derf Paton of Ramley Road, Lymington on Wightlink and the Lymington River, dated 8 November 2009. [309956]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have no record of a letter from Mr. Paton dated 8 November. I replied to Mr. Paton's latest letter dated 19 November on 14 December, however.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* are employed by and *(b)* work for his Department. [303598]

Dan Norris: In April 2009 the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs employed 16.5 full-time equivalent press officers, and two full-time equivalent press officers worked for the Department on temporary contracts.

Departmental Internet

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have taken place since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306163]

Dan Norris: The DEFRA website has undergone a single redesign since the creation of the Department in 2001. This went live on 17 September 2009 and external costs for this (for audience research, web structure analysis, design and accessibility auditing) totalled £181,378. It is not possible to separate out the internal staff costs for this work.

The Food and Environment Research Agency website design was completed in 31 March 2009. The cost of external website design company work was £11,643.75. Of this cost, approximately £2,250 would come under the heading of 'Strategy and planning', the remainder would come under the heading 'Design and build'. The website is hosted on FERA's own IT infrastructure and it is not possible to disaggregate the costs associated with hosting the website. 'Content provision' and 'Testing and evaluation' were all carried out in house. It is not possible to separate out the internal staff costs for this work.

The redesign of the CEFAS website has cost £25,500. This work is still ongoing with a planned launch date of the end of January 2010.

The Marine and Fisheries Agency website did have a redesign to apply the then-DEFRA design templates.

This went live on 1 December 2007 and this design is still live today. There were no specific "redesign costs" for this.

The RPA Website has not been redesigned during this period. The Cattle Tracing System Online transactional website, which enables farmers to submit cattle birth and movement data directly to RPA's central tracing system wa[illegible]mpletely rebuilt during 2008 and 2009 on new hardware and software. This has provided enhanced functionality and improved security through the Government Gateway at a total project cost of £3,959,270. The vast majority of the cost was on developing and testing hardware and software to support the interactive transactional services to customers and the spend on web design, which cannot be separated from the total spend, was a small proportion of the overall cost.

The Veterinary Laboratories Agency website was redesigned during 2007-08 to improve its template design, navigation and accessibility. The new site went live on 29 April 2008 and external costs totalled £9,394.13.

Other DEFRA agencies have not carried out redesigns of their websites during this period.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307800]

Dan Norris: The Department has made over 130 statutory instruments since 1 May 2008. These instruments would need to be assessed manually to establish the number of offences they contain. I consider therefore that the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on (i) alcohol and (ii) entertainment in the last 12 months. [305538]

Dan Norris: The core-Department's financial system does not have expenditure categories for alcohol and entertainment. All expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the HM Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there has been any nugatory cost to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies arising from tendered procurement in circumstances where the tender process has been cancelled prior to the award of the contract in the last five years. [303712]

Dan Norris: Any such nugatory cost incurred by the Department and its agencies is not information held centrally and, if extant, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Scientists

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* scientific advisers and *(b)* civil servants in scientific posts there are in his Department. [301925]

Dan Norris: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has a chief scientific adviser, Professor Robert Watson. DEFRA does not hold data on the number of scientific posts it has in the department and these data could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Security

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many security passes his Department has issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months. [303947]

Dan Norris: All contractors providing consultancy or other services who require access to a DEFRA building are issued with appropriate security passes, subject to security clearance procedures. When access is no longer required, the passes are withdrawn. Disaggregating the number of security passes issued to contractors providing consultancy services in the last 12 months would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many days sickness absence were taken by staff in his Department and its agencies in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of such absence. [305550]

Dan Norris: DEFRA manages sickness absences in line with its sickness absence policy. This includes facilitating timely employee access to occupational health advice, medical or wellbeing interventions. Long-term sick employees are encouraged to return to work on a programme of recuperative duties where appropriate. All individuals returning to work from sickness absence will have a "welcome back" meeting with their manager. This is to discuss their reasons for absence and, where necessary, work-related issues connected with their absence including provision of workplace adjustments.

The number of days of sickness absence taken by staff in DEFRA and its agencies in each of the last 12 months could be calculated only by incurring disproportionate cost. However, the total number of working days lost due to sickness in the year to 30 September 2009 (the latest available figure) in DEFRA and its agencies was 80,900, an average of 8.1 days per employee. The estimated cost of sickness absence in 2008-09 was £9.6 million.

There is no agreed method of calculating the cost of sickness absences in the civil service. DEFRA has calculated the annual cost by multiplying the number of working days lost due to sickness in each grade by the average salary for that grade. No account has been taken of staff on long-term sick who are on reduced or no pay, which would reduce the total.

Departmental Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on away days in the last 12 months; and what the (i) subject and (ii) location of each away day was. [306757]

Dan Norris: This information is not held centrally and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All public expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety. Subject to those principles business areas have discretion whether or not to hold away days having regard to the evaluation of alternative options and, value for money considerations.

Departmental Written Questions

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many questions tabled for answer on a named day his Department received in each of the last 12 months; and to how many such questions his Department provided a substantive answer on the day named. [305375]

Dan Norris: DEFRA received 551 questions for answer on a named day between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2009. Of those, 319 received an answer on the named day.

Central guidance on answering Parliamentary Questions is now available in the "Guide to Parliamentary Work", at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee Report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of Parliamentary Questions tabled for written answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive answer on that day. [307541]

Dan Norris: DEFRA received 545 questions for answer on a named day in session 2008-09. Of those, 282 or 51.7 per cent. received an answer on the named day.

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the "Guide to Parliamentary Work", at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee Report on written parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

Domestic Waste: Recycling

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent *(a)* discussions he has had with and *(b)* representations he has received from (i) his EU counterparts and (ii) representatives of the European Commission on reward schemes for people recycling waste; and if he will make a statement; [308162]

(2) what steps his Department *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to develop a framework to reward people for recycling waste; what recent representations he has received on this matter; and if he will make a statement; [308225]

(3) what recent reports he has received of the effectiveness of schemes operating in other EU countries to reward people for recycling waste; and if he will make a statement. [308226]

Dan Norris: Schemes which reward people for recycling more and minimising waste are provided for by powers introduced in the Climate Change Act. The Act allows up to five local authorities in England to pilot waste incentive schemes to encourage household waste minimisation and recycling, which will have real environmental benefits. Reward-only and voucher-based schemes are included within the scope of the powers. It is up to local authorities to make a proposal to the Secretary of State for permission to run a pilot, in line with local needs. None have yet done so. I have not had any discussions with or received any representations or reports from EU counterparts or representatives from the EU Commission on reward schemes for recycling waste.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 47W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, what the piece of research on landfill bans is which has been published; what the *(a)* timetable, *(b)* reference number, *(c)* commissioned institution, *(d)* terms of reference and *(e)* title is of the other piece of research; and what the timetable is for the consultation referred to. [308370]

Dan Norris: The first piece of research entitled "Landfill bans and restrictions in the EU and US" was prepared by Green Alliance and published on the DEFRA website in September 2009 (reference number WR1202).

The second piece of research has been jointly commissioned by DEFRA and the devolved Administrations through the Waste and Resources Action Programme. The research investigates the environmental, economic and practical impact of landfill bans. The report is expected to be published early in 2010.

As previously announced, it is our intention to consult publicly on the case for introducing further restrictions on the landfilling of certain wastes. The consultation will be launched early in 2010.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1282W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, whether the WR1205 research report has been provided to his Department. [308807]

Dan Norris: WR1205 is a project that has not yet begun. Research report WR1204, referenced in the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1282W, has been completed and is available from DEFRA's website at:

www.defra.gov.uk

using the search term WR1204.

Driving

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which (i) his Department and (ii) one of its Executive agencies is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) his Department and (B) one of its Executive agencies have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302175]

Dan Norris: The core-Department's Driving Policy and Guidance applies to all driving and travel by staff on official DEFRA business. It covers the Marine Fisheries Agency and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate also. Other DEFRA departmental bodies should have their own equivalent arrangements in place in line with DEFRA's Safety Policy signed off by the permanent secretary.

Individual employees must follow all procedures and guidance extant to keep them safe and healthy while driving and travelling on DEFRA business. They must have:

(i) a full valid UK driving licence for a properly taxed vehicle and appropriate motor insurance;

(ii) obtained a driving permit from the relevant official vehicle manager if using a DEFRA owned vehicle or, hiring a car from a car hire company;

(iii) submit their driving licence, insurance, MOT documents and proof of vehicle tax details to their manager on request annually as part of the risk assessment process applicable to driving on official business. Managers are responsible for ensuring compliance with this risk assessment requirement; and

(iv) report motoring convictions, offences, accidents and incidents.

Senior managers must, in accordance with the DEFRA Safety Policy, ensure compliance with this policy in areas within their span of control. This includes provision of budget for appropriate training where identified and nominating a named person or persons to co-ordinate risk assessments for driving and travel activities within their control. They are required to ensure the safe and efficient operation of vehicles used on official business.

Drivers must observe all legal requirements with regard to reporting accidents. All incidents and accidents (including near misses) that occur on an official journey must be reported to the departmental health and safety unit (DHSU). Accidents or incidents involving a pool or Private Use Scheme car must also be reported to core-DEFRA's travel liaison unit and the contracted supplier for accidents and breakdowns.

Managers must ensure reporting of all accidents, injuries or near misses, monitor the effectiveness of preventative measures by investigating accidents and near misses, carry out initial investigations, and review local risk assessments, following accidents, incidents and near misses, keep appropriate records of documentation checks, and request copies of vehicle check lists from individual drivers at regular intervals.

The DHSU monitor accident/incident reports to identify trends, advise managers where requested and investigate accidents and incidents if so requested, arrange training as necessary, keep a central log of completed risk assessments and regularly audit completed risk assessments.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effects of zero exemption fees and small scale activities relating to environmental permit exemptions and the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; and if he will make a statement. [307989]

Dan Norris: We have just completed a fundamental review of exemptions from the need for an environmental permit for waste operations. Revised regulations will come into force on 6 April 2010. One of the aspects of the review was funding the recovery of the Environment Agency's costs of registering exempt waste operations and carrying out appropriate periodic inspection. Currently, some exemptions from permitting are subject to annual registration fees, while the majority are not. We consulted on proposals to introduce a £50 fee for the registration of most exemptions. The majority of those who responded to this consultation were against the introduction of fees.

The Government concluded that in the current economic climate, imposing charges may discourage the take-up of small-scale waste recycling and recovery operations and have a disproportionate impact on small businesses. The Government therefore decided not to prescribe charges for the registration of exempt waste operations or to provide the Environment Agency with powers to introduce charges under its scheme of charging, agreed each year with the Secretary of State.

The exception to this is the exemption for the treatment of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), which is already subject to a registration fee to recover the costs of the mandatory annual inspection required under the WEEE Directive, 2002/96/EC. Under the revised regulations, the level of the registration fee for the WEEE exemption for the new three-year registration period will be in line with the current charges for annual registration and will be set out in the scheme of charges for 2010.

Fly Tipping

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of waste he estimates was illegally fly-tipped in each year from 2004 to date, broken down by *(a)* the nature of this waste and *(b)* local authority area. [310140]

Dan Norris: DEFRA does not hold the information requested. While instances of fly-tipping are recorded, volumes are not.

Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* volume of imports of (i) wheat, (ii) barley, (iii) fresh vegetables, (iv) potatoes, (v) fresh fruit, (vi) beef and veal, (vii) pork, (viii) bacon and ham, (ix) mutton and lamb, (x) poultry meat, (xi) eggs and (xii) liquid milk from each country of dispatch in each year since 1997. [308080]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A copy of the information requested will be placed in the House Library.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* volume of exports of (i) wheat, (ii) barley, (iii) fresh vegetables, (iv) potatoes, (v) fresh fruit, (vi) beef and veal, (vii) pork, (viii) bacon and ham, (ix) mutton and lamb, (x) poultry meat, (xi) eggs and (xii) liquid milk to each country of destination in each year since 1997. [308081]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A copy of the information requested will be placed in the House Library.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the reasons for food wastage; what his estimate is of the amount and proportion of food which was wasted in the latest period for which information is available; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce such waste. [309493]

Dan Norris: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) published the findings of new research into the quantity of household food and drink waste in November 2009 which revealed that 8.3 million tonnes of food and drink are thrown away by households each year, most of which (5.3 million tonnes) could have been consumed. This avoidable food and drink waste is worth £12 billion, on average costing around £480 for every household a year, increasing to £680 a year for households with children.

In the study, three reasons for avoidable food waste were identified; cooked, prepared or served too much; not used in time and other. Just over half of avoidable food and drink waste is classified as 'not used in time', with a value of approximately £250 per household per year, and a further 40 per cent. falling into the category of 'cooked, prepared or served too much'.

Much of the food and drink that is wasted is unnecessary and can usually be avoided, and we are now focusing on how to change people's behaviour, and incentivise retailers to play a more active role. The Government are doing this through their ongoing work with WRAP to cut significantly the amount of food wasted in the supply chain and in the home. This requires a twin-track approach—working closely with retailers and manufacturers, and also directly with householders.

DEFRA funds WRAP to deliver the Love Food Hate Waste campaign which is aimed at helping consumers more effectively manage their shopping and food storage and usage to help cut down on food waste and save money, through providing a number of pieces of advice and information via various media.

The Government are also collaborating with WRAP and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on a project which will help prevent consumer food waste through the application and increased understanding of date labelling (use by, best before, sell by, display until etc.), and food storage and use guidance.

The Courtauld Commitment between Government (represented by WRAP) and the grocery sector also includes a target to reduce household food waste by 155,000 tonnes over a three-year period (ending in March 2010), which places an onus on the industry to implement means of helping consumers to reduce waste—such as clearer and more informative storage and usage guidance and new ranges of product sizes more in line with contemporary consumer demand.

Charitable organisations are also working to minimise food waste by providing the food industry, including supermarkets and restaurants, with an outlet for good quality surplus food by redistributing it to vulnerable people in the community.

Geographical Information Systems

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 19 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 1284W, on geographical information systems, whether the definition of cadastral parcels has been finalised for the purposes of implementation of the INSPIRE Directive. [308741]

Dan Norris: The draft INSPIRE Implementing Rule for Annex I Data Specifications (including Cadastral Parcels) was unanimously passed by the INSPIRE Comitology Committee on 14 December 2009. This document will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union later in 2010 as a Regulation.

The Implementing Rule does not further define the scope beyond the INSPIRE Directive statement as "Areas defined by cadastral registers or equivalent." The INSPIRE Feature Concept Dictionary extends that definition and this is also developed in the INSPIRE Cadastral Parcels Data Specification Guidelines at:

http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm/pageid/2

From this it can be inferred, that the minimum requirement for the United Kingdom, is the legal property land parcel data, recorded as vector data, by the Land Registries in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Those data are dependent on Ordnance Survey data in Great Britain and Land and Property Services data in Northern Ireland.

Immobilisation of Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its predecessor have paid in vehicle clamping charges incurred on *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* publicly-owned land in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [302745]

Dan Norris: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department would expect clamping charges and any other motoring fines to be paid by the individual(s) who incurred them.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to introduce a ban on the trimming of the beaks of laying hens in England from January 2011. [309414]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have accepted advice from the Farm Animal Welfare Council, an independent advisory body, that a complete ban on beak trimming of laying hens should not be introduced from 1 January 2011 (as is currently in legislation), but should be deferred until it can be demonstrated reliably under commercial conditions that laying hens can be managed without beak trimming, without a greater risk to their welfare than that caused by beak trimming itself.

The Government will shortly issue a consultation on proposed amendments to the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) to remove the total ban on beak trimming, to allow for routine beak trimming of day old chicks intended for laying to be done using the infra-red technique only.

Tuna: Conservation

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's negotiating position is on the proposal to include Atlantic bluefin tuna (thunnus thynnus) on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. [309678]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK has publicly supported the need for improved protection of Atlantic bluefin tune. The UK and other EU member states are currently considering the positive outcomes of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) annual meeting in November 2009. We are looking to see whether the measures agreed at the meeting provide sufficient reassurance that the regional fisheries management organisation can, and will, take the necessary steps to turn around the dramatic decline in the species population. Consequently, we have not yet ruled out the need for a convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) Appendix I listing, and it certainly remains an option under consideration in the run up to the CITES Conference of Parties meeting in March this year.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 18 May 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1138-9W, on the Waste and Resources Action Programme, what *(a)* services and *(b)* publications the Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management has provided to the programme. [308806]

Dan Norris: Membership of the Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management (ACR+) network gives access to research reports, conference proceedings, newsletters and gives discounts for attendance at conferences. It also allows effective sharing of information between approximately 100 local and regional authorities that have a shared interest in waste management and resource recovery. It also facilitates joint participation in research projects, allowing costs to be spread and reducing duplication of effort.

Waste and Resources Action Programme: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the written ministerial statement of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 48-9WS, on departmental expenditure limit (2009-10), for what reason the funding for the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is being transferred to the Department for Energy and Climate Change; and which department is now the sponsoring department for WRAP. [308372]

Dan Norris: In Budget 2009, the Chancellor announced that he was making available £10 million to support the development of anaerobic digestion and in-vessel composting projects in 2009-2010. Some £8.4 million of this funding was allocated to DEFRA with the remainder going to the devolved administrations. DEFRA and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) decided that the timescales associated with the planning and construction of new anaerobic digestion and in-vessel composting projects precluded DEFRA from fully utilising the Budget 2009 funding in the current financial year. Therefore DEFRA, HM Treasury and DECC agreed that £4.4 million of this allocation should be transferred to the latter to allow it to accelerate the implementation of the Anaerobic Digestion Demonstration Programme in 2009-2010. This programme is delivered by WRAP on behalf of DEFRA, but is funded by DECC's Environmental Transformation Fund. In recognition of this arrangement, DECC will be making a reciprocal transfer of £4.4 million to DEFRA in 2010-2011.

WRAP is mainly funded by DEFRA with subsidiary funding from DECC and the devolved administrations. Therefore DEFRA remains the sponsoring department for WRAP.

Water Charges

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the likely change to customer bills following the transfer of private sewers and drains to water company ownership; and if he will make a statement. [308078]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The impact assessment that accompanied my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs' announcement on 15 December 2008 estimated the increase in sewerage customers' bills to be between £4 and £12 per year, which is around 7.5p to 23p a week.

The impact assessment is available on DEFRA's website.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Billing

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of invoices submitted to his Department have been paid within 10 days in each month since October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [307956]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department has invested significantly in its people, with the creation of a professional Shared Service Centre and Procurement Centre of Excellence complemented by the creation of new processes and upgraded Procure to Pay systems.

The Department has been putting a firm focus on paying its suppliers on time when it is in receipt of a compliant invoice. It has been working closely with colleagues in the Department for Business Innovation and Skills reporting on both our legislative obligations of 30 days as well as the 10 day PM's commitment for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) for correctly presented compliant invoices.

The Home Office performance for paying all invoices within 30 days and paying SME compliant invoices within 10 days for the period October 2008 to November 2009 is shown in the following table:

Table 1: The Home Office performance of paying total number of invoices within 30 days and SME compliant invoices within 10 days for the period October 2008 to November 2009

	Home Office			
Month	*Total number of all invoices paid*	*Percentage of total number of all invoices paid within 30 days*	*Number of SMEs' compliant invoices paid within 10 days*	*SMEs, percentage of compliant invoices paid with 10 days*
October 2008	7,122	83	[1]—	[1]—
November 2008	5,336	79	[1]—	[1]—
December 2008	5,934	91	[1]—	[1]—
January 2009	3,975	83	[1]—	[1]—
February 2009	6,185	94	649	100
March 2009	8,622	93	770	100
April 2009	3,929	84	927	100
May 2009	3,749	87	667	98
June 2009	4,112	89	880	99
July 2009	3,840	92	789	99
August 2009	3,601	90	734	99
September 2009	3,517	90	871	99
October 2009	4,465	91	1,159	100
November 2009	4,949	91	1,208	100

[1] Not recorded prior to PM's announcement to pay all SMEs within 10 days.

The Criminal Records Bureau's (CRB) started to record performance of paying invoices in April 2009 and to provide information before this date would incur disproportionate cost. CRB's performance of paying invoices within 10 days for the period April 2009 to November 2009 is shown in the following table.

Table 2: CRB performance of paying SME invoices within 10 days for the period April 2009 to November 2009

Month	*Total number of all invoices*	*Number of SME invoices paid within 10 days*	*SME percentage of invoices paid within 10 days*
April 2009	285	115	40.00
May 2009	234	135	25.93
June 2009	256	140	36.43
July 2009	414	160	57.50
August 2009	450	92	34.78
September 2009	474	173	33.53
October 2009	235	112	61.61
November 2009	323	193	72.54

Departmental Energy

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the energy efficiency rating is of each of his Department's buildings in London. [307419]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* Display Energy Certificates (DEC) were introduced in 2008. OGC publish central Government Departments' Display Energy Certificate (DEC) operational ratings on a building by building level twice a year. The most recent data for the Home Office, published on 31 July 2009, which includes DEC ratings up to and including 28 February 2009 can be seen via this link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Pan_Govt_DEC_Feb09.xls

Data to October 2008 can be seen via this link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Pan_Govt_DEC_Oct08.xls

Data to 30 September 2009 can be seen via this link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Pan_Govt_DEC_Data_Sept09.xls

Departmental Lost Property

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* laptop computers, *(b)* desktop computers and *(c)* memory sticks his Department and its agencies have recorded as (i) stolen and (ii) lost in each of the last 10 years and how many of each were (A) stolen and (B) lost from its offices in Scotland in each such year. [306905]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The Home Office group only holds the information requested from 2005 onwards. The following table sets out the IT equipment that was recorded as lost (or missing) and stolen:

	Laptops		*Desk top computers*		*Memory sticks*	
	Lost	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*
2005	3	11	0	12	0	0
2006	4	10	0	0	0	0
2007	3	12	0	0	2	1
2008	3	26	0	2	5	0

None of the equipment identified in the question by the hon. Member was reported stolen or lost from any Home Office building in Scotland.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 522W, on departmental expenditure, on what dates conference facilities at City Inn were hired by his Department; and for what reason rooms in his Department's building in Marsham Street were not used in each case. [308283]

Mr. Woolas: The previous answer given on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 522W, stated, in error, that rooms were hired on four occasions.

The Department has made payments totalling £4,449 to City Inn, Westminster for the hire of conference facilities on three occasions: 2 April 2008; 8 April 2008; and 8 September 2008.

At the time of two of these meetings, the meeting rooms and conference facilities in Marsham Street were already booked. Conference facilities were not suitable at Marsham Street for the third meeting because of the large number of conference delegates.

All Home Office expenditure conforms to the principles of regularity, propriety and value for money, and any other guidance as applicable contained within Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Training

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* away days and *(b)* conferences that took place outside his Department's building attended by civil servants in his Department there have been since 2005; and what the cost was of each. [307524]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office accounting system does not separately identify expenditure on staff away days. To provide the requested detail would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location and *(c)* cost was of each of the last four away days attended by a Minister in his Department; and which Minister attended on each occasion. [305463]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I given on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1110W. Home Office Ministers were also in attendance at the away days held by the Home Office Board.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of Parliamentary Questions tabled for written Answer by his Department on a named day in session 2008-09 received a substantive Answer on that day. [307547]

Mr. Hanson: 842 parliamentary questions for named day response were tabled to the Home Office during the 2008-09 parliamentary session. 129 (15 per cent.) of these questions received a substantive answer on the day named.

Central guidance on answering parliamentary questions is now available in the 'Guide to Parliamentary Work', at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/parliamentary-clerk-_guide.aspx

In the response to the Procedure Committee Report on Written Parliamentary questions, the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation that Departments be required to provide the Procedure Committee with sessional statistics in a standard format on the time taken to respond to written parliamentary questions, accompanied by an explanatory memorandum setting out any factors affecting their performance. This will be taken forward as soon as possible.

Deportation

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* subject to deportation proceedings and *(b)* deported on national security grounds in each year since 2001. [307732]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency is committed to ensuring that we remove those foreign nationals who pose a risk of harm to our society. In 2007, we removed or deported 4,200 foreign national prisoners who met our criteria for deportation. We continued to build upon this success in 2008, when we removed or deported 5,395. In the first half to 2009, the agency removed 2,560[1] foreign criminals.

Figures are unavailable prior to 2007, and could be obtained through the examination of individual records only at a disproportionate cost.

Comprehensive details of the numbers of cases where a notice of intention to deport on grounds of national security are not available for the period 2001-04. However, nine people have been deported on grounds of national security since 2005, three in 2006, six in 2007 and zero in 2008.

[1] These figures are based on provisional MI information.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many industrial tribunals relating to his Department have been held in each of the last five years; and what the total cost was of such tribunals in each such year. [309942]

Mr. Woolas: The number of times the Home Office, including the UK Border Agency (UKBA), Identity and Passport Service (IPS) and Criminal Records Bureau (CRB), have been taken to a full employment tribunal hearing in each of the last five years is as follows:

2004-05

Neither Home Office HQ nor UKBA hold this information centrally, which could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Neither IPS nor CRB were taken to a full employment tribunal.

2005-06

There were fewer than five full employment tribunal hearings. Further information is therefore withheld on confidentiality grounds.

2006-07

There were 10 full employment tribunal hearings.

2007-08

There were seven full employment tribunal hearings.

2008-09

There were 11 full employment tribunal hearings.

The Home Office does not maintain a central record of costs incurred in contesting employment tribunals (formerly industrial tribunals). The information required could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest time taken to process an asylum application from a former Iraqi locally employed civilian awaiting an asylum decision has been since the inception of the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme. [307853]

Mr. Woolas: Former locally engaged civilians in Iraq who meet the criteria as set out in the Foreign Secretary's statement of 30 October 2007 can request assistance in the form of resettlement to the UK. Their applications are considered to be activated at the point that the UK Border Agency is referred their resettlement application by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Before this time, they will have submitted an application form for assistance under the Locally Engaged Staff Assistance Scheme, but not an application for resettlement or any immigration category to the UK. The longest time it has taken to process an application is 13 months from the time when the UNHCR submitted the application to the date on which the UK Border Agency issued the decision after interview. The average time is five months.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps his Department has taken to expedite the asylum process for those Iraqi locally employed civilians who are awaiting a decision on an asylum application; and if he will make a statement. [307854]

Mr. Woolas: Several steps have been taken to streamline the decision making process for former locally engaged staff who are being considered for resettlement to the UK. The UK Border Agency has reduced the timeframe from registration with UNHCR to interview with UK Border Agency staff from four months to less than two months. We have also reduced the timeframe between interview date and the decision being made from three months to one and a half months, where no further investigation is required.

We have also responded positively to requests to undertake additional selection missions by staging three interviewing missions previously unplanned. This has ensured that regular numbers of locally engaged staff have been interviewed every quarter during the year and had their decisions made in a timely fashion.

The UK Border Agency is unable to process an application until former locally engaged civilians are outside of Iraq and have been assessed by the UNHCR. Some have delayed their travel because they wished to complete medical treatment or studies in Iraq which is outside of our control. An application is only activated once UNHCR submits their application to the UK Border Agency.

Time frames for decision making are communicated to locally engaged staff at the time of their interview and at regular intervals through meetings with the LE staff manager based in Amman.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many entry visas for students attending colleges which were subsequently closed on the intervention of the UK Border Agency were issued in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and how many such visas were issued between 1 January and 31 October 2009. [301232]

Mr. Woolas: Since the introduction of PBS Tier 4 on 31 March 2009, UKBA has the authority to suspend or revoke the licence of a college. Of the 1,800 colleges currently licensed, 14 had their licences revoked between 1 April and 31 October this year. The number of visas issued to students attending these colleges in 2007, 2008 and 2009 is shown in the following table:

College	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Grand total*
Bells College	37	48	175	260
Brookes College	1	—	—	1
Concept Care College	18	88	97	203
Holborn School of Finance and Management	—	5	3	8

College	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Grand total*
London Academy for Higher Education	62	82	58	202
London College of Science and Technology	81	16	52	149
London College Wimbledon	112	137	292	541
London Reading College	225	340	456	1,021
London School of Language t/a Great Chapel College	181	207	61	449
Middlesex College	197	152	183	532
St Martin's Business School	22	37	5	64
The Muslim college	3	8	1	12
Waterloo School of English	68	43	60	171
Grand Total	1,007	1,163	1,443	3,613

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students have been *(a)* served with enforcement notices and *(b)* deported since the implementation of Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system. [301658]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 November 2009]:* Tier 4 of the points based system was implemented on 31 March 2009, replacing the previous arrangements for overseas students to come and study in the UK.

Between 31 March 2009 and 14 December 2009 2101 former students, which would include people who were students under the arrangements which applied before the implementation of Tier 4, have been served with enforcement form IS 151A of which 1,811 have been removed from the UK.

These figures are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information. They are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 481W, on entry clearances: overseas students, how many and what percentage of administrative reviews have been completed within 28 days. [307730]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* As I advised the hon. Member in my answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 481W, we do not record information on the duration of the administrative review process.

Flanagan Review of Policing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the recommendations of the Flanagan Review of Policing have *(a)* been implemented (i) in full and (ii) in part and *(b)* not been implemented; on which date each such recommendation was implemented; and if he will make a statement. [303907]

Mr. Hanson: Sir Ronnie Flanagan's Independent Review of Policing in England and Wales was published in two stages: his interim report in September 2007 containing 26 recommendations; and his full report in February 2008 containing a further 33 recommendations.

31 of the recommendations across both reports have been noted as closed, indicating they have either been implemented or developed under another recommendation. These recommendations are listed in table 1.

Work is in progress to deliver a further 27 recommendations which have been partially implemented. The recommendations that we assess to be in this category are listed in table 2. Recommendation three in the interim report was considered as part of the Green Paper, but has not been progressed.

Work is being taken forward in conjunction with the National Policing Improvement Agency and Jan Berry, the independent Reducing Bureaucracy Advocate, to address the areas where progress has been relatively slow. This forms part of the wider approach to reducing bureaucracy and freeing up officers to deliver for the public.

Tables 1 and 2 have been placed in the Library.

Hotels

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on hotel accommodation for *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* civil servants in each of the last five years. [305671]

Mr. Woolas: Information relating to Home Office Ministers hotel expenditure can be accessed by visiting webpage:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/travel_gifts.aspx

We are unable to collate information relating to expenses incurred by civil servants and special advisers due to disproportionate costs.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been referred to the human trafficking national referral mechanism by local authorities in *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* England, *(c)* Northern Ireland and *(d)* Wales since 1 April 2009. [309626]

Mr. Woolas: Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009, the number of potential victims under 18 years of age referred into the National Referral mechanism by local authorities totals 57. This is composed of six from local authorities in Scotland, 47 from local authorities in England and four from local authorities in Wales. There have not been any referrals during this period from local authorities in Northern Ireland.

Immigrants: Detainees

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what gender-sensitive policies and procedures his Department implements in respect of women held at immigration removal centres. [307422]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 December 2010]:* The Detention Centre Rules 2001 (S.I. 2001/238), which regulate the operation of immigration removal centres, make specific reference to the conditions for searching of women and their entitlement to be examined by a medical practitioner of the same gender.

The UK Border Agency has a specific operation standard for women which sets out minimum auditable requirements for the provision of a safe and secure environment that meets their needs. This includes the provision of separate sleeping and dining accommodation for those centres where they can mix, equality of access to all activities within the centres, provision of activities appropriate to their needs and interests such as single-sex gym sessions, and seeking their views when arranging activities.

Intercept as Evidence Review

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse has been of *(a)* staging mock trials to test the viability of intercept evidence in court and *(b)* other costs incurred in reviewing the use of intercept evidence since the commissioning of the Chilcot Review. [308844]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* The information is as follows:

(A) The cost of the 'model test' phase of the IaE work programme which consisted of the trial simulation and live testing of interception processes is estimated at around £1.2 million.

(B) As set out in 'Intercept as Evidence, A Report (Cm7660)' published under cover of my written ministerial statement of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 31WS, the total cost of the work programme across all agencies and Departments involved since March 2008 is estimated at around £2.5 million.

The costs of the original Privy Council review (Cm7324) were set out in that report as £0.1 million.

Macfarlan Smith

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answers of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, columns 213-15W and 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 211W on Macfarlan Smith, when the work which commenced on 5 October 2006 will be completed; when the data collection and assessment will be completed; and when it is intended for the study to be published. [300337]

Mr. Hanson: The study that commenced on 5 October 2006 was completed in March 2008. A copy will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for West Derbyshire of 7 October 2009 concerning South African nationals, reference: PM/OP/Gibbs. [307114]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* A reply to this letter was sent on 15 December 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr A. Ahmad. [309152]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 22 December 2009.

Northamptonshire Police: Manpower

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* civilian staff there were in Northamptonshire Constabulary in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2008. [308706]

Mr. Hanson: There were 1,177 police officers in Northamptonshire constabulary as at 31 March 1997 and 1,264 police officers as at 31 March 2008.

Police community support officers were not introduced until 2002-03. There were 12 police community support officers in Northamptonshire constabulary as at 31 March 2003 and 159 as at 31 March 2008.

There were 554 civilian staff in Northamptonshire constabulary as at 31 March 1997 and 979 civilian staff as at 31 March 2008.

This and other related data are published annually as part of the annual Police Service Strength Home Office Statistical Bulletin. The latest bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and bulletins for this and previous years are deposited in the Library of the House.

Police

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evaluation his Department has made of the effects of the joint Home Office/Department for Transport/Association of Chief Police Officers strategy on roads policing published in January 2005; and if he will make a statement. [309529]

Mr. Hanson: We have not conducted a specific formal review of the strategy statement but implementation of the strategy forms a specific part of the National Community Safety Plan. We liaise regularly with the Department for Transport and ACPO on developments within the context of the strategy.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce the number of forms police officers are required to complete in respect of each prosecution; what recent discussions he has had with the Police Federation on that matter; and if he will make a statement. [303906]

Mr. Hanson: The Policing Green Paper, published in July 2008, committed the Government to cut red tape and improve police processes to free officers up to deal with the issues that matter to the public. This has been built upon by the Policing White Paper, published on 2 December 2009.

To date we have made the following progress:

On 1 January 2009 changes to Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Code A came into effect which removed the requirement for police officers to complete the Stop and Account form, whilst retaining the recording of the ethnicity of those stopped for monitoring reasons.

We are also legislating in the Crime and Security Bill currently before Parliament to remove the paperwork associated with Stop and Search.

Action on forms is part of a wider approach to bureaucracy reduction, focusing on the simplification of policing processes and more effective management of risk. Jan Berry has been appointed as the independent reducing bureaucracy advocate to challenge Government and the police service to make further progress on these issues, supported by a practitioner group of police officers and staff. Her full report, Reducing Bureaucracy in Policing, was published on 2 December 2009.

As set out in the White Paper, we will also work with police stakeholders to encourage forces themselves to take responsibility for reducing bureaucracy. This includes reducing the amount and size of forms that officers and staff need to fill in. Jan Berry will be asked to report on this in her final report in summer 2010.

Home Office Ministers have regular meetings with the Police Federation and other staff associations at which bureaucracy is discussed along with other policing issues.

Police: Olympic Games 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with the Minister for the Olympics on the policing of the London 2012 Olympics. [308472]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 5 January 2010]:* Security planning for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games is discussed at regular meetings of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development (Protective Security and Resilience) (NS)D (PSR)) which my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary chairs and which my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Olympics attends. The Minister for the Olympics has also had several recent discussions with Admiral the Lord West of Spithead, the responsible Minister for Olympic security, about policing and related security issues around the games.

Radicalism

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Council of Europe and *(b)* the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on measures to tackle extremism; and if he will make a statement. [301465]

Mr. Hanson: The UK is an active, founding member of the Council of Europe, which is a standard setter on democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We are fully engaged in Council of Europe work on the fight against extremism and terrorism.

The UK Government are clear that any form of violent extremism is unacceptable. The Government deplore all attacks, whatever their motivation which are engineered by any extremist group. A key element of CONTEST, the Government's strategy for countering international terrorism, is "Prevent"—that is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism. To do this we need to prevent people supporting violent extremism and the ideology that fuels terrorism. Part of our Prevent work is to challenge those who support violence. But we also want to actively promote the shared values (including democracy and the rule of law) on which our society and the cohesion of our communities depend. We aim to do this by working in partnership with communities to challenge the ideology of violent extremism and disrupt those who promote it. The Government aim to empower all communities to reject violent extremism. We are also working with police forces, local authorities, schools and universities, and local communities to protect vulnerable individuals from radicalisation.

Reducing Bureaucracy Practitioners Group

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the Reducing Bureaucracy Practitioners Group has met since December 2008; and at how many of those meetings were *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers from his Department present. [308955]

Mr. Hanson: The Reducing Bureaucracy Practitioners Group (RBPG) has met seven times since it was established in December 2008 by Jan Berry, the independent advocate for reducing bureaucracy in policing. The RBPG consists of front line officers and staff, but Home Office officials have accepted an invitation to attend six out of the seven meetings to date.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made developing a website for the Reducing Bureaucracy Practitioners Group; and if he will make a statement. [308956]

Mr. Hanson: The website:

www.reducingbureaucracyinpolicing.co.uk

has been developed and is now available to view.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proposals the Reducing Bureaucracy Practitioners Group have made; which of those have been adopted; and if he will make a statement. [308957]

Mr. Hanson: The Reducing Bureaucracy Practitioners Group (RBPG) is made up of frontline officers and staff, and was established as an advisory and consultative group by Jan Berry the independent advocate for reducing bureaucracy in policing.

Jan Berry regularly draws on their expertise to inform her work, and sub-groups are looking at specific issues such as constructing minimum data sets for crime recording and for the recording of missing persons, and comparing force risk assessments in relation to domestic violence incidents.

The RBPG's work contributed significantly to Jan Berry's recent report—"Reducing Bureaucracy in Policing" published on 2 December 2009.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints the Investigatory Powers Tribunal has *(a)* considered and *(b)* upheld on the misuse of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. [308734]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of complaints made and upheld is given in the published annual reports of the Interception of Communications Commissioner and the Intelligence Services Commissioner. They are summarised as follows:

	Applications received	*Investigations concluded*
2 October to 31 December 2001	102	71
1 January to 31 December 2002	130	194
1 January to 31 December 2003	109	100
1 January to 31 December 2004	90	115
1 January to 31 December 2005	80	93
1 January to 31 December 2006	86	81
1 January to 31 December 2007	66	83
1 January to 31 December 2008	136	70

The reports show that since 2001 the Investigatory Powers Tribunal made determinations in favour of complainants in 2005 and 2008. The former related to two complainants who lodged a joint complaint; the latter related to two separate complainants. Copies of the Commissioners' reports are in the House Library.

Right of Search

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* bodies and *(b)* officials are authorised to carry out inspections and investigations of private houses and premises without a search warrant; [308577]

(2) what timetable has been set for the publication of the report by Lord West on powers of entry; and how many representations that review has received. [308693]

Mr. Hanson: The list of statutory powers of entry to dwellings and premises can be found at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/powers-of-entry-review/

A record is not held centrally on the number of officials authorised to gain entry for enforcement purposes. The outcome of the review of entry powers will be published in March 2010.

Telephone Tapping

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each of the four national security categories have been informed by the Metropolitan Police that their voicemails had been illegally tapped on behalf of media organisations as a result of the investigation leading to the conviction of Mr. Glenn Mulcaire and Mr. Clive Goodman in 2007. [307874]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* I understand from the Metropolitan Police Service that a very small number of individuals were contacted in the categories listed, and that no additional individuals have been contacted since Assistant Commissioner Yates' statements in July last year.

The MPS is committed to respecting and protecting the privacy of those who may have been subject to illegal interception of their communications, but is actively considering against that background what information might be released which would not permit the possible identification of individuals.

Terrorism: Stop and Search

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been issued to police forces on use of powers under anti-terrorism legislation to stop and search people taking photographs. [308735]

Mr. Hanson: Guidance has been provided to the police on a number of occasions regarding the use of counter terrorism stop and search powers in relation to taking photographs. These have included the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) guidance on stop and search which was revised and reissued to all forces in November 2008. It explains the background and purpose of stop and search powers, the different circumstances in which they might be used, including circumstances where photography may be involved.

In August 2009 the Home Office published a national circular clarifying the use of counterterrorism legislation in regards to photography in public places. The Circular (012/2009) can be found on the Home Office website. I also wrote to all chief constables whose forces had standing section 44 authorisations. This letter reiterated how the powers should be used and was accompanied by a copy of the national circular.

The Metropolitan police also issued their own local guidance on counterterrorism legislation with regard to photography in public places in August 2009. The guidance was published on the public Metropolitan police website. And on 15 December 2009 John Yates, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan police, issued further guidance to all Metropolitan police officers on the use of stop and search powers in relation to people taking photographs.

Travel: Personal Records

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether airlines are required under the e-Borders scheme to provide credit card or bank details of passengers; and what categories of information airlines have provided to date. [307871]

Alan Johnson: *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* Carriers can be required to provide reservation data, known as Other Passenger Information (OPI) to the e-Borders system, but only if it is collected in the normal course of their business. This may include details of method of payment, including credit card information.

There are 53 pieces of information that may have been provided by carriers to date. These are outlined in schedule 1 to the Immigration and Police (Passenger, Crew and Service Information) Order 2008, which can be found at the following weblink:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080005_en_2

A copy is available in the House Library.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish the list of Other Passenger Information required by the e-Borders programme. [307875]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* Full details of the information to be collected have been outlined in schedule 1 to the Immigration and Police (Passenger, Crew and Service Information) Order 2008 which came into effect on 1 March 2008.

This information can be found on the following weblink:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20080005_en_2

A copy is available in the House Library.

UK Border Agency

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which countries the UK Border Agency has offices *(a)* co-located and *(b)* not co-located with the British Embassy, Consulate or High Commission. [307113]

Mr. Woolas: All the UK Border Agency's overseas offices are based in British diplomatic missions, except for the UK visa section, which is in the UKBA's estate in Croydon. The agency's commercial partners also run visa application centres for the agency in 110 locations. These are not co-located with the diplomatic missions.

Vetting

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will issue guidance to police forces to take account of the judgment of the Supreme Court on the right to make representations about information held on individuals and disclosed by a Criminal Records Bureau check; and if he will make a statement. [307270]

Mr. Hanson: Guidance will be issued by the Home Office in consultation with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to take account of the judgment of the Supreme Court as it related to those cases where a right of representation may be appropriate.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Pay

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was claimed in reimbursable expenses by press officers in his Department in 2008-09. [306903]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 566W.

Departmental Training

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location and *(c)* cost was of each of the last four away days attended by a Minister in his Department; and which Minister attended on each occasion. [305465]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office ministerial team meet in a formal capacity twice a year to discuss strategic issues with senior officials and advisers. These meetings are usually held away from the office and take a full working day. Details of the last four away days attended by FCO Ministers are as follows:

17 September 2009 at 1 Carlton Gardens - attended by 28 people including the right hon. David Miliband, my hon. Friend Ivan Lewis and my noble Friend Baroness Glenys Kinnock. The total cost of the away day was £591.

5 January 2009 at Chevening Estate - attended by 45 people including the right hon. David Miliband, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown, the hon. Caroline Flint, my hon. Friend Bill Rammell and my hon. Friend Gillian Merron. The total cost of the away day was £1,797.

30 October 2008 at 1 Carlton Gardens - attended by 23 people including the right hon. David Miliband, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown, the hon. Caroline Flint, my hon. Friend Bill Rammell and my hon. Friend Gillian Merron. The total cost of the away day was £540.

30-31 March 2008 at Chevening Estate - attended by 28 people including the right hon. David Miliband, my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown, the hon. Kim Howells, the right hon. Jim Murphy and my hon. Friend Meg Munn. The total cost of the away day was £5,024. This event was held over two days (Sunday and Monday) and includes accommodation and other associated costs.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location and *(c)* cost was of each of the last four away days held by his Department's Board. [305467]

Chris Bryant: The Board of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office meets in formal session once a month to discuss the delivery of the policies and services decided upon by Ministers. Executive Members of the Board also meet regularly between formal Board meetings to discuss the day-to-day operations of the Department. On occasion, the Board meets for longer—typically half-day—sessions away from the office to discuss longer-term strategic issues and the Board's objectives. The last four such occasions were as follows:

Date: 11 March 2008

Location: 1 Carlton Gardens, London

Cost: £870 (security charge and catering)

Date: 3 October 2008

Location: 1 Carlton Gardens, London

Cost: £665 (security charge and catering)

Date: 6 March 2009

Location: 1 Carlton Gardens, London

Cost: £314 (catering)

Date: 10 June 2009

Location: Chevening House, Kent

Cost: £1,367 (facility fee and catering)

Government Hospitality: Wines

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 197W, on Government hospitality: wines, at which events wine from the Government wine cellar was served in the last 12 months. [310204]

Chris Bryant: Government hospitality manages over 200 events annually for all departments across government. Wine is not served at all functions. Alcohol is generally offered at receptions, lunches and dinners except where dietary and religious considerations would make it inappropriate.

It is not possible to give a detailed breakdown of the events at which wines or alcohol were served throughout 2009 without incurring disproportionate costs.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent representations he has made to the Government of Iran on the seven person informal leadership group of the Baha'i community in Iran; and if he will make a statement; [310282]

(2) whether he has requested the Iranian authorities to guarantee the safety of the accused informal Baha'i leadership in Iran and for any trial to be held in public; and if he will make a statement. [310283]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Alongside our EU partners we have made clear to the Iranian authorities our concerns at the charges of 'espionage' and "corruption on earth" levelled against the seven Baha'i leaders imprisoned for over a year without trial, most recently through the EU presidency, which summoned the Iranian Ambassador on 10 July 2009. In recent days we have learnt that their trial has been scheduled for 12 January 2010. We have already spoken to EU partners who share our belief that we should collectively make clear to Iran in advance of that date that they have international obligations to ensure that, if it goes ahead, it is a fair trial.

We have been active in using multilateral forums to call for the Iranian authorities to respect the rights of Baha'is and other religious and ethnic minorities. On 18 December 2009, the UN General Assembly adopted a Resolution on human rights in Iran for the seventh consecutive year. The Resolution condemns 'attacks on Baha'is and their faith in state-sponsored media, increasing evidence of efforts by the state to identify, monitor and arbitrarily detain Baha'is, preventing members of the Baha'i faith from attending university and from sustaining themselves economically'.

We will continue to urge Iran to respect the right to freedom of religion and belief as described in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a state party.

Morocco: Exports

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the purchase by UK companies of goods from Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara. [309543]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not received any reports or representations from UK companies regarding the purchase of goods from Western Sahara or the legalities of such purchases.

The UK continues to maintain its position that Morocco, as the de facto administering power of Western Sahara, is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities under administration—including the extraction and exportation of phosphates—do not adversely affect the interests of the people in Western Sahara. This was also the opinion of the EU Legal Service when considering the legality of the 2006 EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement before it was finalised.

WALES

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print and *(d)* online advertising in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [309934]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has no expenditure planned for advertising in either financial year.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of his Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the cost of the survey was. [310234]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office people survey was delivered as part of the Ministry of Justice people survey, and as such its costs were borne by, and not split out from, those of the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice's share of ORC International's costs for providing the 2009 survey was £192,000. By procuring a single supplier for staff surveys in 2009-10 the civil service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008-09. The results are expected to be received next month and we will put a copy in the Library in due course.

Domestic Visits

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the *(a)* date, *(b)* destination and *(c)* purpose was of each official visit in Wales made by (i) the Secretary of State and (ii) Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in each of the last two years. [310277]

Mr. Hain: Since my re-appointment in June 2009, both my hon. Friend and I have always undertaken a busy programme of meetings, visits and functions with a wide range of organisations in Wales. It would require a disproportionate cost to identify and list all of the visits we have made, and those of my predecessor my right hon. Friend the Member for Torfaen (Mr. Murphy), but specific examples of visits are referred to in previous Wales Office Annual Reports.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many industrial tribunals his Department has been party to in each of the last five years; and what the cost to his Department of such tribunals was in each year. [310207]

Mr. Hain: As my Department has been party to less than five employment tribunals during the period specified I am unable to release the additional information that the hon. Gentleman seeks for reasons of confidentiality.

Legislation

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the *(a)* title and *(b)* purpose is of each proposed legislative consent order scheduled for introduction in the present Parliament which his Department has discussed with the Welsh Assembly Government. [310276]

Mr. Hain: The following table lists the proposed legislative competence orders that my Department has discussed with the Welsh Assembly Government and which are yet to be presented to Parliament or the National Assembly for Wales for approval. I have presented all the proposed orders to Parliament for pre-legislative scrutiny.

Title of proposed LCO	*Enabling the National Assembly to legislate on:*
National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Housing) Order 2009	Automatic fire suppression systems in residential premises.
National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Culture and Other Fields) Order 2009	Functions of local authorities in the support, improvement and promotion of specified areas of culture and sport and recreational activities.
National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Local Government) Order 2009	Community councils, public information relating to local government, members' salaries, allowances and pensions and councillor recruitment and retention.
National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Housing and Local Government) Order 2010	Social housing, meeting the housing needs of vulnerable people and council tax payable in respect of second homes.
National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Education) Order 2010	Conduct and governance of local authority maintained schools, collaboration between those responsible for local authority maintained schools and the establishment of bodies by them.
National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Transport) Order 2010	Concessionary travel and the regulation of vehicles used for learner transport.

New Businesses

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministerial colleagues and *(b)* Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on policy to promote small business start-up schemes among young people in Wales. [308155]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues and Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on all issues affecting the Welsh economy including small businesses.

The Welsh Assembly Government are actively engaged in promoting small business and self-employment options to young people, including graduates.

In addition, under the Jobcentre Plus Six Month Offer, there are two elements of help on offer to people who want to move into self-employment or start a business. The first provides financial support during the early weeks of trading through the self-employment credit paid of £50 a week for up to 16 weeks and the Building Britain's Recovery White Paper brings forward entitlement to this credit to three months.

The second is a provision of additional funds to Flexible Support for Business in Wales so that it can provide intensive self-employment and business start-up support for those who need it both before they leave benefits and into the first weeks of trading.

Second Homes: Council Tax

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales with reference to the National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Housing and Local Government) Order 2010, and paragraph 43 of the Explanatory Memorandum, whether an impact assessment has been prepared on the proposals to allow higher council tax on second homes and holiday homes in Wales. [309379]

Mr. David: A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it confers legislative competence on the National Assembly for Wales and so has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies. The Welsh Assembly Government would prepare a Regulatory Impact Assessment when bringing forward any proposed Assembly Measures as a result of the legislative competence this instrument confers.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what representations his Department has received on the effects of the National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Housing and Local Government) Order 2010 on council tax on second homes and holiday homes in Wales. [309394]

Mr. David: None.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many industrial tribunals his Department has been party to in each of the last five years; and what the cost to his Department of such tribunals was in each such year. [310205]

Barbara Follett: It would not be possible to provide this information without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has made a recent estimate of the mean age of a first-time buyer of a domestic property. [308597]

Mr. Ian Austin: No.

Mortgages

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on the implementation of the proposals of the European Commission on harmonising rules governing access to mortgages; and what assessment has been made of the implications for his Department's policies of the Commission's proposed further changes to the European Capital Requirements Directive. [308598]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I have been asked to reply.

The European Commission published a White Paper on European mortgage markets at the end of 2007. This document is available on the Commission's website, at:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/finservices-retail/home-loans/integration_en.htm

The Commission has since undertaken work to improve the evidence base on EU mortgage markets, which HM Treasury has supported and encouraged, including work to renew this evidence base following the financial crisis. HM Treasury will continue to engage with the European Commission to help ensure that any response at the EU level is effective and proportionate.

The European Commission published a consultation under 'Further possible changes to the Capital requirements Directive' with a closing date of 4 September 2009. Due to developments internationally, including a G20 consensus agreement on bank capital reform, it is now expected that the European Commission will reissue its consultation in late summer or the autumn of 2010. This will have a broader scope to match the Bank for International Settlements' consultation 'Strengthening the resilience of the banking sector', while retaining the measures on moving towards a single rulebook for bank capital in the EU. In the interim period, HM Treasury will continue to pursue the objectives outlined in its paper 'Reforming Financial Markets', both within the EU and internationally.

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 29 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 472W, on licensing: multiple occupation, on what date the report by the Building Research Establishment on the effectiveness of the new licensing regime for houses in multiple occupation will be published; and what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the report. [310210]

Mr. Ian Austin: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 381W.

National Policy Statements: Transport

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to publish the National Policy Statement on transport infrastructure. [309796]

Mr. Khan: I have been asked to reply.

We expect to publish for consultation a draft National Policy Statement for national networks (strategic roads and railways, including strategic rail freight interchanges) early this year, and a draft National Policy Statement for airports in 2011.

Regeneration: Radlett

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to announce his decision on the development site at Radlett. [309797]

Mr. Malik: The Secretary of State's decision on this planning appeal is expected by 23 June 2010.

Social Rented Housing: Equality

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to registered social landlords on equalities audits. [308773]

Mr. Ian Austin: None.

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much has been spent by the Central Office of Information on advertising in 2009-10. [309868]

Angela E. Smith: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 7 January 2010

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on COI advertising spend in 2009/10 (309868).

COI advertising spend for 2009/10 will be published in our annual report and accounts when the figures have been fully audited and approved.

Charity Commission: Internet

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what redesigns of websites operated by the Charity Commission for England and Wales have been carried out since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306193]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 9 December 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on redesigns of websites operated by the Charity Commission for England and Wales since 27 June 2007; and what the (a) cost to the public purse and (b) date of completion of each such redesign was (306193).

We have not redesigned our website in the period in question. However, in the interests of transparency, the last redesign of our website took place in 2006/07 at a cost of just over £49,000 and was launched formally in July 2007.

In addition, a major redesign of our website is currently underway, due for completion and launch in February 2010. We have budgeted £75,000 for this project.

I hope this information is helpful.

Civil Service: Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what guidance is provided to civil servants on their involvement in online social media. [309848]

Angela E. Smith: The Civil Service Code applies to participation online as a civil servant or when discussing government business. Specific guidance for online participation is available to all civil servants at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/participation-online.aspx

Copies of the Civil Service Code and the guidance are also available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in her Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference; [305871]

(2) how many overseas training courses were attended by her Department's civil servants in the latest period for which figures are available; how many civil servants attended each course; and what the total cost to the public purse was of each course. [305900]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office has not organised any overseas training centrally for staff. All Cabinet Office Management Units have delegated responsibility for spend against their learning and development budgets. The individual management units decide on appropriate learning opportunities to enable their staff to acquire the skills, knowledge and behaviours necessary to deliver departmental objectives. This might involve attendance on an internal or external training course as well as a one or more of the following:

job shadowing

one to one coaching

mentoring

E-Learning

personal study.

Information on attendance and cost at courses or conferences is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Employment

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people were employed *(a)* in total and *(b)* in local government in the UK at the latest date for which information is available. [309395]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning, how many people were employed *(a)* in total and *(b)* in local government in the UK, at the latest date for which information is available. (309395)

Estimates of total employment for the UK are derived from the Labour Force Survey. Data for the survey is collected on a monthly basis; the latest date for which information is available is September 2009. It is important to acknowledge, as with any sample survey, estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Estimates of employment for local government in the UK are collected as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES). Data for the survey is collected on a quarterly basis; the latest date for which information is available is September 2009.

The requested estimates are attached at Annex A.

Annex A: Total and local government employment, seasonally adjusted, United Kingdom

Thousand

	Local government[1, 2, 3]	*Total employment*[4, 5]
All in employment (September 2009)	2,923	28,926

[1] Estimates derived from public sector organisations.

[2] Estimates for Northern Ireland included in the UK total ate sourced from the Quarterly Employment Survey and are based on jobs rather than employees.

[3] Police (England and Wales) based on projections.

[4] LFS data for September refer to August to October.

[5] Labour Force Survey employment; all aged 16 and over; seasonally adjusted.

Source:

Office for National Statistics (ONS) Labour Force Survey and returns from public sector organisations.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many employees of her Department have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308506]

Angela E. Smith: It is Cabinet Office policy not to provide information which risks identifying individual members of staff.

Official Residences

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which Minister occupied each ministerial residence in each of the last three years. [309955]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1135W and my right hon. Friend, the Member for Doncaster, North (Edward Miliband) on 27 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 352W. My noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown vacated the flat in Admiralty House in July 2009.

Personal Income

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what her most recent estimate is of the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median gross annual pay by place of (i) residence and (ii) work for people in areas classified as (A) major urban, (B) large urban, (C) other urban, (D) significant rural, (E) rural -50 and (F) rural -80. [309499]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent estimate is of the (a) mean and (b) median gross annual pay by place of (i) residence and (ii) work for people in areas classified as (A) major urban, (B) large urban, (C) other urban, (D) significant rural, (E) rural -50 and (F) rural -80. (309499)

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. Annual levels of earnings are estimated from the ASHE, and are provided for employees on adult rates of pay, who have been in the same job for more than a year. The required area classification based on the Rural/Urban Local Authority classification is only available for England.

I attach a table showing the mean and median gross annual earnings for full-time employees by (i) place of residence and (ii) place of work in (A) major urban, (B) large urban, (C) other urban, (D) significant rural, (E) rural -50 and (F) rural -80 for England in April 2009.

Gross annual earnings for full-time employee jobs[1]: England 2009

	By place of residence				*By place of work*			
	Mean (£)	*Percentage CV*	*Mean (£)*	*Percentage CV*	*Mean (£)*	*Percentage CV*	*Mean (£)*	*Percentage CV*
Major Urban	35,400	2.1	27,300	0.9	37,600	1.8	28,600	0.8
Large Urban	29,000	1.1	24,700	1.3	29,900	1.3	25,100	1.3
Other Urban	29,800	1.1	25,200	1.4	30,800	1.0	25,700	1.3
Significant Rural	33,500	1.4	26,700	1.4	30,200	1.4	25,100	1.3
Rural-50	32,700	1.2	26,200	1.4	28,700	1.2	24,100	1.5
Rural-80	32,400	2.1	25,600	1.6	27,400	1.2	23,300	1.7

[1] Full-time employees on adult rates who have been in the same job for more than one year. As at April 2009.

Guide to quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of a figure, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an average of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent., we would expect the population average to be within the range 180 to 220.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Equality

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the *(a)* Equality and Human Rights Commission and *(b)* Government Equalities Office has provided guidance to local authorities on the appointment of diversity officers. [308677]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission and Government Equalities Office have not issued specific guidance to local authorities on hiring diversity officers.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Public Relations

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much money the Equality and Human Rights Commission has paid to OH Communications in each of the last two financial years. [308245]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has paid OH Communications a total of £68,124.90 (including VAT) in the last two financial years. The amount during both years are set out in the following table.

	£
2007-08	0
2008-09	68,124.90

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Title Indexing

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the answer of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 378W, on dignity at work, when the Equality and Human Rights Commission will finalise its Dignity at Work policy; and what the reasons are for the time taken to finalise it. [308650]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission plans to implement its Dignity at Work policy in January 2010. The Commission has had an interim policy in place since October 2008. This policy was drafted in full consultation with the recognised unions.

Along with other employment policies, the Commission's Dignity at Work policy has been reviewed and revised. In order to undertake this exercise the Commission has:

Consulted with the unions;

Worked with the Staff Groups;

Undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment;

Agreed a communication strategy;

Sought Senior Management Team and Union Branch approval;

Identified appropriate training which will be given to employees of the Commission to coincide with the launch.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Vacancies

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 503W, on the Equality and Human Rights Commission: manpower, what full-time equivalent vacant posts there are in the Equality and Human Rights Commission; and what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* salary range of each vacancy is. [308445]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission is currently recruiting to the vacancies listed in the following tables.

Interim vacancies as at week commencing 14 December 2009

Directorate	*Vacancy - job title*	*Comments*	*Level*	*Interim day rates to be confirmed subject to appointment (£)*	*Full-time equivalent*
Communications	Internal communications co-ordinator	Paid at an appropriate daily/hourly rate commensurate with the skills and experience that the appropriate individual will bring to the role.	2	c75	—
	Head of procurement		5	c700	—
	Records manager		3	c150	—
Finance	Assistant management accountant (AP role) x 2		3	c150	2
Legal	Business manager		4	c170	0.5
Strategy	Group director (GD) for regulation		GD	To be confirmed	—

Permanent/fixed term contract vacancies as at week commencing 14 December 2009

Directorate	*Vacancy - job title*	*Comments*	*Level*	*Salary start rate p.a. (£)*	*Full-time equivalent*
Commissioners Office	Chief executive officer	—	—	To be confirmed	—
Communications	Campaigns and marketing officer	Maternity cover	3	26,815.80	—
	Team leader	—	3	26,815.80	0.61
Corporate Management	Senior professional	Maternity cover	5	43,680.00	—
Scotland	Senior professional	—	5	43,680.00	—
	Policy officer	Maternity cover	3	26,815.80	—
	Caseworker	Secondment opportunity until September 2010	3	26,815.80	—
Strategy	Policy manager-European and International	—	4	34,224.75	—
	Research manager	Maternity cover	4	34,224.75	—
	Policy manager-criminal injustice	Secondment opportunity till 31 March 2010	4	34,224.75	—

Other recruitment activity as at week commencing 14 December 2009

Vacancy-job title	*Comments*	*Day rate (£)*
Disability Committee Members x 2	These are fee based roles requiring a commitment of between 10-15 days per year. These are not roles included as part of the overall establishment.	250
Audit and Risk Committee Members x2		
Scotland Committee Member		

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality with reference to the answer of 18 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 503W, on the Equality and Human Rights Commission: manpower, how many full-time equivalent *(a)* consultants and *(b)* temporary staff employed by the Commission are not permanent staff. [308446]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission currently have 79.6 full-time equivalent interim employees and four full-time equivalent employees on fixed term contracts who are not permanent employees. In addition the Commission have three full-time equivalent secondees working at the Commission who are not permanent employees.

Equality: EU Law

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will place in the Library a copy of the reasoned opinion of the European Commission on the compliance of the UK's equality legislation with the EU Equal Treatment Directive. [309426]

Maria Eagle: The understanding between the European Commission and member states is that infraction correspondence remains confidential. The Commission publishes the fact that a Reasoned Opinion has been sent, but not the letter itself. The Government will therefore not be placing a copy of this Reasoned Opinion in the Library.

EU Anti-Discrimination Legislation

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with the European Commission on UK compliance with EU anti-discrimination legislation; and if she will make a statement. [308222]

Maria Eagle: The European Commission sent two reasoned opinions to the UK Government on 20 November 2009 which questioned the compliance of our domestic legislation with two European Directives in certain respects. We are studying these reasoned opinions carefully and will reply to the Commission towards the end of January.

Gender Pay Difference

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent assessment she has made of the gender pay difference in Hampshire. [309190]

Maria Eagle: The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2009 showed that the gender pay gap, comparing the median hourly earnings of all men and women, was: 28.6 per cent. for Hampshire; 26.6 per cent. for the South East; and 22.0 per cent. for the UK as a whole.

For full-time employees, the pay gap for Hampshire is 22.7 per cent. For part-time employees, the pay gap is 17.9 per cent., i.e. male part-time employees are paid less than female part-time employees.

The overall national pay gap has fallen from 27.5 per cent. in 1997 to 22.0 per cent. in 2009, but more progress is needed and the Equality Bill includes tough measures to improve gender pay transparency.

Homosexuality: Human Rights

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent steps the Government Equalities Office has taken in respect of the human rights of gay and lesbian people. [302340]

Maria Eagle: The UK Government have taken great strides forward to ensure equality for gay and lesbian people in all areas, including all aspects of human rights.

The human rights of everyone in the UK are afforded protection under the Human Rights Act 1998, which incorporates into UK law the European Convention on Human Rights. We have alongside that protection brought forward specific measures to protect and promote the rights of gay and lesbian people, for example through legislation prohibiting discrimination because of sexual orientation in the workplace and in services and public functions, which provides a private law cause of action for individuals experiencing discrimination.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Child Care Vouchers: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on the number of child care providers in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* West Yorkshire who take part in the child care voucher scheme. [306623]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland (Dr. Kumar) on 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 806W.

Employers and employees are not required to report the provision of tax exempt child care vouchers. Accordingly, the specific information that has been asked for is not available.

Children: Day Care

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the effect of withdrawing the tax exemption for employer supported child care on the amount of money claimed for the child care element of working tax credit. [301763]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are not withdrawing the tax exemptions for employer supported child care. On 4 December 2009, the Prime Minister announced the Government's policy in relation to employer supported child care. This is set out in the answer given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 846W.

This reform will have no impact on take-up of the child care element of the working tax credit.

Class Sizes: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average class size in schools in Leeds North West constituency was in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [309387]

Mr. Coaker: The average class size of maintained primary schools in Leeds North West was 26.9 in 1997 and 27.5 in 2009; the figures for state funded secondary[1] schools were 20.6 and 20.3 respectively.

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed, City technology colleges and academies.

Departmental Internet

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what redesigns of websites operated by his Department there have been since 27 June 2007; and what the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* date of completion of each such redesign was. [306169]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) was established on 28 June 2007. The corporate website homepage and page header (www.dcsf.gov.uk) was updated to reflect the new Department at no additional cost.

A refresh of the corporate website homepage was completed in August 2008, at a cost of £2,111. A further redesign was completed in May 2009 at a cost of £5278.

The migration of all content from three individual sites (Local Authorities, Sure Start and Every Child Matters) into the current ECM service—

www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters

was completed in May 2009. This involved a complete redesign of the content and the development of a new part of the corporate site at a cost of £265,038 (including VAT).

Departmental Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Children and Learners Strategic Advisers posts there are in his Department; when each such post was created; and what *(a)* salary and *(b)* job description associated with each is. [303652]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 December 2009]:* Children and Learners Strategic Advisers (CLSAs) will not be employed by the Department. They will be part of a new integrated advisory service based in Government Offices from April 2010. Following a competitive dialogue process, the preferred bidder for the contract to deliver the service is Together for Children and Learners, a partnership led by Serco. CLSAs will provide a single strategic interface between local authorities, Children's Trusts and the Department. They will replace the existing Children's Services Advisers and take on part of the role of the National Strategies Senior Regional Directors to agree local priorities and improvement support across all outcomes for children and young people. There will be around 32 CLSAs with salaries between £75,000 to £95,000.

Departmental Sick Leave

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many working days were lost due to illness of employees within his Department in each of the last three years; and how many of these were attributed to stress in each year. [310230]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department was set up as part of the machinery of government changes on 28 June 2007, so figures only apply from 1 July. Sickness absence data, including the average number of days lost and reasons for absence, are published on the Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/sicknessabsence/

Education Maintenance Allowance: Yorkshire and the Humber

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in post-16 education in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* West Yorkshire are in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [306605]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell, the LSC's acting chief executive, will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Entry to Employment Programme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his plans are for the future of the e2e programme; and if he will make a statement. [307325]

Mr. Coaker: Entry to Employment (E2E) as a distinct programme will finish this academic year, with provision from September 2010 being delivered as Foundation Learning, the national route for young people who are at entry level and Level 1. Foundation Learning is one of the four pathways that comprise the broad and engaging learning offer at the heart of our 14-19 reforms.

As emphasised in the delivery plan for the Raising of the Participation Age published on 15 December 2009, Foundation Learning enables flexible and inclusive recognition of learning achievements and emphasises personalised planning for progression—to Level 2 (Diplomas, Apprenticeships, GCSEs) wherever possible.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the January Guarantee of Entry to Employment places for those not in education, employment or training in 2009-10. [309728]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are determined to ensure that every young person who is not in education, employment or training (NEET) is given an opportunity to engage in learning so that they can develop the skills they need to enter sustainable employment. Building on the success of our September Guarantee, the January Guarantee will ensure that all 16 and 17-year-olds who are NEET in January 2010 have the offer of an Entry to Employment place.

A funding package of £40 million is being made available by the Department to deliver the January Guarantee. This includes funding for 10,000 additional Entry to Employment places, education maintenance allowance for those additional young people who are eligible, and for local Connexions services to support young people to re-engage.

Free School Meals

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of widening access to free school meals for children of low-income parents in 2009-10. [309727]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department of Health (DH) have jointly allocated £10 million in 2009-10 to fund three free school meal pilots, £5 million from the DCSF and £5 million from the DH. Participating local authorities and primary care trusts are contributing the same in matched funding.

The aim of the pilot is to gather some robust evidence on the health and educational benefits of extending access to free school meals. Durham and Newham are piloting universal free school meals for all primary pupils. Wolverhampton is piloting extended eligibility to primary and secondary pupils whose parents are on working tax credit and have an income up to £16,040.

GCSE: North East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of students *(a)* achieved (i) no GCSEs, (ii) five GCSEs at grade A* to C, (iii) English GCSE at grade A* to C, (iv) mathematics GCSE at grade A* to C and *(b)* were eligible for free school meals in each secondary school in the (A) Newcastle upon Tyne, (B) county of Northumberland and (C) boroughs of North Tyneside and Gateshead in each year from 2003 to 2009. [302536]

Mr. Coaker: School-level figures for 2009 will become available in January 2010.

The tables provide 2005 to 2008 data on the consistent basis of pupils at the end of key stage 4. Data for the period 2003 to 2008 on a consistent basis can be produced only at disproportionate cost.

The tables contain figures for each maintained mainstream secondary school in each of the local authorities covering the areas requested.

Percentages of pupils at the end of key stage 4

		Achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grade A-C or equivalent*				*Achieving no GCSEs at grade A*-G or equivalent*				*Achieving GCSE English A*-C*			
Local authority	*School name*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Newcastle upon Tyne	Gosforth High School	58	65	73	76	2	1	2	1	68	64	69	70
	Walbottle Campus Technology College	37	48	50	62	7	4	2	1	43	44	45	57
	Walker Technology College	61	58	45	45	4	6	7	10	39	42	41	60
	Benfield School	37	46	55	64	5	7	13	7	36	34	31	37
	Kenton School	70	70	81	85	3	7	5	5	51	43	51	48
	Heaton Manor School	63	63	64	67	3	4	1	2	59	59	62	55
	West Gate Community College	22	44	50	56	8	11	12	12	14	14	15	18
	All Saints College	40	32	48	43	16	10	5	9	11	28	28	37
	St. Mary's Catholic Comprehensive School	49	50	60	85	5	12	2	1	47	50	54	57
	St Cuthbert's High School	64	69	77	78	3	5	1	4	60	58	68	62
	Sacred Heart High School	78	72	80	83	2	0	0	0	66	68	74	77
Northumberland	Haydon Bridge Community High School and Sports College	66	63	66	69	2	2	3	2	68	69	66	57
	Prudhoe Community High School	62	75	73	74	1	1	0	1	57	62	59	64
	Ashington Community High School	42	43	42	54	4	4	6	4	44	51	50	51
	Queen Elizabeth High School	74	73	78	84	0	1	1	1	77	72	73	79
	Cramlington Learning Village	76	83	82	84	2	2	1	1	65	78	68	78
	Ponteland Community High School	76	77	70	85	0	0	0	0	80	77	70	70
	Hirst High School	44	45	28	46	11	7	7	10	37	32	29	41
	Bedlingtonshire Community High School	43	44	52	53	1	3	2	2	53	55	54	47
	Berwick Community High School	63	69	73	85	2	0	1	0	51	50	50	68
	The Duchess's Community High School	60	62	61	68	1	2	2	2	69	64	55	62
	Coquet High School	49	45	45	59	3	1	2	1	43	57	50	44
	Blyth Community College	32	38	37	54	9	6	5	5	39	38	39	45
	The King Edward VI School	77	80	80	87	1	0	0	0	70	76	77	87
	St Benet Biscop Catholic Voluntary Aided High School	62	71	71	71	1	1	1	1	59	65	63	63
	Astley Community High School	58	57	64	81	2	2	1	1	65	54	51	58
North Tyneside	Marden High School—A Specialist maths, Science and Media Arts College	72	70	77	81	1	1	2	3	68	72	70	74
	Norham Community Technology College	28	39	37	41	1	2	1	1	29	39	39	39

Percentages of pupils at the end of key stage 4

Local authority	*School name*	*Achieving 5 or more GCSEs at grade A*-C or equivalent*				*Achieving no GCSEs at grade A*-G or equivalent*				*Achieving GCSE English A*-C*			
		2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
	Whitley Bay High School	73	82	77	83	0	0	0	0	77	82	75	81
	George Stephenson Community High School	44	48	69	66	2	4	3	4	61	61	72	70
	Burnside Business and Enterprise College	48	59	58	72	0	0	1	2	54	63	53	65
	Churchill Community College	35	55	47	61	12	8	2	3	26	31	30	41
	Monkseaton Community High School	47	53	49	56	3	3	4	1	50	44	51	61
	John Spence Community High School	54	66	76	78	2	1	0	0	41	63	70	69
	Longbenton Community College	72	67	73	61	6	4	3	4	53	61	66	60
	Seaton Burn College, A Specialist Business and Enterprise School	47	66	45	46	4	3	1	3	54	69	55	53
	St. Thomas More Roman Catholic High School Aided	75	78	82	83	0	1	0	0	80	80	88	77
Gateshead	Lord Lawson of Beamish Community School	78	78	79	78	1	3	2	2	59	59	53	49
	Whickham School	78	84	87	85	2	1	1	2	65	64	72	67
	Ryton Comprehensive School	59	62	72	73	2	0	0	1	59	63	57	60
	Heworth Grange Comprehensive School	43	45	52	68	3	2	3	1	34	42	53	58
	Hookergate School	39	52	42	70	7	6	1	0	36	47	45	54
	Kingsmeadow Community Comprehensive School	57	60	60	42	8	7	5	6	40	41	35	31
	Thomas Hepburn Community Comprehensive School	46	44	50	53	17	7	5	7	32	39	38	46
	Joseph Swan School	58	70	77	74	8	8	4	5	37	50	51	56
	Cardinal Hume Catholic School	71	78	85	97	3	6	1	1	52	55	75	77
	St Thomas [illegible]re Catholic School	100	100	99	99	0	0	0	1	86	80	78	84
	Emmanuel College	96	99	97	98	0	0	0	1	92	96	95	95

Local authority	*School name*	*Achieving GCSE maths A*-C*				*Known to be eligible for free school meals*			
		2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Newcastle upon Tyne	Gosforth High School	64	70	72	69	10	9	9	9
	Walbottle Campus Technology College	30	35	29	39	10	12	13	12
	Walker Technology College	21	24	26	32	35	35	34	35
	Benfield School	34	38	40	35	30	31	27	27
	Kenton School	36	29	45	48	28	22	20	18
	Heaton Manor School	54	53	55	49	13	13	12	13
	West Gate Community College	19	20	22	21	53	48	43	36
	All Saints College	22	21	25	23	44	36	42	44
	St. Mary's Catholic Comprehensive School	35	41	46	58	15	16	19	15
	St. Cuthbert's High School	53	67	72	61	15	11	10	9
	Sacred Heart High School	54	53	68	67	16	14	16	14
Northumberland	Haydon Bridge Community High School and Sports College	49	58	58	45	6	5	5	6
	Prudhoe Community High School	66	71	72	57	7	6	6	5
	Ashington Community High School	37	43	48	44	13	12	12	12
	Queen Elizabeth High School	65	65	67	78	3	3	3	3
	Cramlington Learning Village	57	66	62	69	9	8	7	8
	Ponteland Community High School	68	72	68	63	2	1	2	2
	Hirst High School	29	28	33	37	26	23	21	23

		Achieving GCSE maths A*-C				Known to be eligible for free school meals			
Local authority	School name	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
	Bedlingtonshire Community High School	44	45	50	48	11	12	11	15
	Berwick Community High School	42	38	44	61	9	11	10	8
	The Duchess's Community High School	60	63	56	61	6	5	6	4
	Coquet High School	47	61	59	54	13	12	10	11
	Blyth Community College	34	33	31	41	22	20	19	19
	The King Edward VI School	68	74	74	78	4	3	3	4
	St. Benet Biscop Catholic Voluntary Aided High School	63	64	62	57	7	7	7	7
	Astley Community High School	56	59	59	68	9	7	8	7
North Tyneside	Marden High School—A Specialist maths, Science and Media Arts College	65	65	71	81	4	5	6	5
	Norham Community Technology College	32	45	34	38	25	23	25	23
	Whitley Bay High School	67	71	64	67	4	3	3	3
	George Stephenson Community High School	36	38	44	38	12	12	11	7
	Burnside Business and Enterprise College	46	59	53	65	14	14	13	13
	Churchill Community College	27	34	38	43	25	21	22	18
	Monkseaton Community High School	38	48	49	57	12	11	10	7
	John Spence Community High School	53	67	64	65	16	12	14	13
	Longbenton Community College	60	61	57	63	16	14	15	13
	Seaton Burn College, A Specialist Business and Enterprise School	38	40	43	38	15	13	12	13
	St. Thomas More Roman Catholic High School Aided	79	73	74	77	7	7	7	8
Gateshead	Lord Lawson of Beamish Community School	54	56	48	44	9	10	11	11
	Whickham School	53	52	58	52	8	8	8	8
	Ryton Comprehensive School	57	52	60	56	8	8	8	9
	Heworth Grange Comprehensive School	50	47	49	59	22	19	19	19
	Hookergate School	37	42	39	60	20	17	16	18
	Kingsmeadow Community Comprehensive School	20	30	29	25	29	34	35	33
	Thomas Hepburn Community Comprehensive School	15	36	40	42	40	40	38	37
	Joseph Swan School	44	42	37	49	21	20	21	24
	Cardinal Hume Catholic School	40	43	60	45	29	27	28	27
	St Thomas More Catholic School	74	74	73	80	6	7	6	5
	Emmanuel College	84	89	93	86	5	6	6	6

Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital expenditure his Department has incurred in Leeds West constituency in the last three years. [306943]

Mr. Coaker: As expenditure is prioritised locally, no central records are maintained for expenditure at constituency level.

Ofsted: Complaints

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the remit is of the independent adjudicator in respect of the Ofsted complaints system. [309206]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* The remit of the independent adjudicator is to consider Ofsted's handling of complaints from service providers and users about its inspection and regulatory activity. The adjudicator can make recommendations in respect of Ofsted's handling of complaints.

Primary Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children attended *(a)* two, *(b)* three, *(c)* four, *(d)* five and *(e)* 10 primary schools in the most recent year for which figures are available. [307264]

Mr. Coaker: The available information, based on pupil registrations at primary schools in 2007/08, is shown in the table.

Primary schools[1], number of pupils registered at a number of different primary schools[2] [3], England, 2007/08

Total number of (different) primary school registrations[1]	*Number of pupils[2] [3]*
1	3,184,050
2	106,190
3	4,680
4	300
5	40
10	0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who were aged between five and 15 as at 31 August 2007, excluding boarders.

[3] Includes sole and dually registered pupils. Pupils may register at a particular school but decide to attend a different school, and it is possible for this to lead to two registrations being reported.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census.

Primary Education: Capital Investment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether local authorities with projected rises in pupil numbers are able to use funding from the Primary Capital Programme to build new schools; and if he will make a statement. [308177]

Mr. Coaker: There is nothing to prevent local authorities from using the funding delivered for the Primary Capital programme to provide new primary school places where there is need. The Primary Capital programme challenges local authorities to join up funding streams in support of a long term strategic approach to capital investment across the primary school estate, which will include providing sufficient permanent school places where they are wanted. Our expectation, therefore, is that all investment in primary schools should support the strategic objectives outlined in each authority's primary strategy for change. Decisions about investment priorities and how these should be funded are rightly matters for local determination.

On 30 November 2009, the Department confirmed funding of up to £300 million to support the provision of additional primary places in authorities experiencing exceptional growth in the number of primary pupils. This is on top of more than £1.2 billion already available to local authorities collectively from 2008 until 2011 to help them provide permanent new places in areas of population growth.

Pupils Exclusions: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of white *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls eligible for free school meals were given (i) permanent and (ii) fixed-period exclusions in each of the last five years. [309718]

Mr. Coaker: Information for 2007/08 is shown in the table.

To provide information for further years would incur disproportionate cost.

Primary, secondary and special schools.[1,2,3] Number and percentage of pupil enrolments receiving one or more fixed period exclusions or a permanent exclusion by pupil characteristics,[4] England, 2007/08 (Estimates)[5]

	Permanent exclusion[5]		*One or more fixed period exclusions*	
	Number of pupil enrolments eligible for free school meals whose ethnicity is white[6,7]	*Percentage of applicable school population[8]*	*Number of pupil enrolments eligible for free school meals whose ethnicity is white[6,7]*	*Percentage of applicable school population[8]*
Boys	1,730	0.49	31,450	8.87
Girls	510	0.15	12,490	3.68
Total	2,230	0.32	43,930	6.33

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies (including all-through academies).

[3] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[4] Pupils may be counted more than once if they were registered at more than one school or changed schools during the year.

[5] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil-level data.

[6] Includes only pupils of compulsory school age and above. Free school meal eligibility as at the time of the January 2008 School Census.

[7] Includes pupils of white British ethnicity only.

[8] The number of pupil enrolments who received exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of all pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) by those pupils eligible for free school meals and of white British ethnic origin, in January 2008.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. *Source:*
School Census

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in each school were entitled to free school meals on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [309511]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Schools

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local authority area he has visited since his appointment; and on what date each such visit took place. [305352]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 8 December 2009]:* The following table shows the *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools that the Secretary of State has visited since his appointment, their local authority area, and the date the visit took place.

	Date	*Local authority*
Primary schools		
Seagrave Primary School	6 July 2007	Nottingham
Scawsby Rosedale Primary School	13 July 2007	Doncaster
Scawthorpe Castle Hills Primary School	13 July 2007	Doncaster
Woodberry Down Community Primary School	7 September 2007	Hackney
St. John the Baptist Catholic	28 September 2007	Wakefield
Morley Newlands Primary Schools	12 October 2007	Leeds
Scawsby Rosedale Primary School	19 October 2007	Doncaster
East Ardsley Primary School	19 October 2007	Leeds
Millbank Primary School	20 November 2007	Westminster
Holy Trinity CofE Primary School	23 November 2007	Wakefield
Cardwell Primary School	10 December 2007	Greenwich
Normanton Altofts Junior School	14 December 2007	Wakefield
Laycock Primary School	19 December 2007	Islington
Deans Primary Schools	21 January 2008	Salford
Westfield Community School	21 January 2008	Wigan
Green Dragon Primary School	23 January 2008	Hounslow
Joseph Lancaster Primary School	6 March 2008	Southwark
Argyle School	14 March 2008	Camden
Wyvil Primary School	20 March 2008	Lambeth
Normanton Common Primary School	2 April 2008	Wakefield
Wentworth Primary School	24 April 2009	Kent
Normanton Junior School	23 May 2008	Wakefield
Chesterton Primary School	17 June 2008	Wandsworth
Suffield Park Infant and Nursery School	20 June 2008	Norfolk
St. Matthew's School	1 July 2008	Westminster
Churchill Garden Community Primary School	8 July 2008	Westminster
Cobblers Lane Primary School	11 July 2008	Wakefield
Stanley St. Peter's CofE Voluntary Controlled Primary School	11 July 2008	Wakefield
Normanton Common Primary School	12 September 2008	Wakefield
Chingford Hall Community Primary School	15 October 2008	Waltham Forest
Hillcrest Community Primary School	24 October 2008	Leeds
Eastwood Primary School	24 October 2008	Leeds
John Perryn Primary School	7 November 2008	Ealing
Rooks Nest Junior, Infant and Nursery	14 November 2008	Wakefield
Horbury Primary School	5 December 2008	Wakefield
Torriano School	8 December 2008	Camden
Bawburgh School	19 December 2008	Norfolk
Eastward Community Primary School	7 January 2009	Bury
Drove Primary School	9 February 2009	Swindon
Hardwick Primary School	6 March 2009	Derby
Bordesley Green Primary School	13 March 2009	Birmingham
Victoria Dock School	20 March 2009	Kingston Upon Hull, City of
Collis Primary School	20 April 2009	Richmond Upon Thames
Brockholes Wood County Primary School	23 April 2009	Lancashire
Oliver Goldsmith Primary School	30 April 2009	Southwark
Lyndhurst Community Primary School	22 June 2009	Southwark
Portway Primary School	3 September 2009	Newham
Colebourne Primary School	7 September 2009	Birmingham
Tyssen Community Primary School	9 September 2009	Hackney
Newton Primary School	16 September 2009	Cheshire West and Chester
Hillcrest Community Primary School	9 October 2009	Leeds
Loughborough Primary School	15 October 2009	Lambeth
Thornhill Primary School	20 October 2009	Islington
Crossdale Drive Primary School	20 November 2009	Nottinghamshire
Shirley Junior School	23 November 2009	Southampton
Catton Grove Primary School	24 November 2009	Norfolk
Secondary schools		
Preston Manor High School	10 July 2007	Brent
Banbury School	16 July 2007	Oxfordshire
Morpeth School	18 July 2007	Tower Hamlets
Sydney Smith School	27 July 2007	Kingston Upon Hull - City of
Stockwell Park High School	13 September 2007	Lambeth

	Date	*Local authority*
Stoke Newington School	20 September 2007	Hackney
The King's School Specialising in Mathematics and Computing	28 September 2007	Wakefield
Barking Abbey School	9 October 2007	Barking and Dagenham
St. Augustine's CofE High School	16 October 2007	Westminster
New Brompton College	30 October 2007	Medway
The Skinners' Company's School for Girls (Voluntary Aided)	7 November 2007	Hackney
Woodkirk High Specialist Science School	9 November 2007	Leeds
Bitterne Park School	14 November 2007	Southampton
All Saints Church of England School	29 November 2007	Dorset
Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Secondary School	5 December 2007	Southwark
Garforth Community College	14 December 2007	Leeds
Reddish Vale Technology College	21 January 2008	Stockport
Brighton College	07 March 2008	Brighton and Hove
Castleford High School Technology and Sports College	4 April 2008	Wakefield
Aylesford School	30 April 2008	Kent
The Malling School	30 April 2008	Kent
Holmesdale Technology College	30 April 2008	Kent
Kings School	9 May 2008	Wakefield
Kingsbury High School	9 June 2008	Brent
Lord Lawson of Beamish Community School	12 June 2008	Gateshead
Thornaby Community School	12 June 2008	Stockton-on-Tees
Blakeston School - A Community Sports College	12 June 2008	Stockton-on-Tees
Kelmscott School	16 June 2008	Waltham Forest
Graveney School	16 June 2008	Wandsworth
Aston Manor School	19 June 2008	Birmingham
Lordswood Girls' School and The Sixth Form Centre, Harborne A Specialist Media Arts College	19 June 2008	Birmingham
Yavneh College Voluntary Aided	20 June 2008	Hertfordshire
Whitefield School	26 June 2008	Barnet
The Hayfield School	27 June 2008	Doncaster
The Freeston Business and Enterprise College, Voluntary Controlled	27 June 2008	Wakefield
Thomas Tallis School	1 July 2008	Greenwich
Kirk Hallam Community Technology College	4 July 2008	Derbyshire
Bennerley Business and Enterprise College	4 July 2008	Derbyshire
Bramcote Hills Sport and Community College	4 July 2008	Nottinghamshire
Ashfield Comprehensive School	4 July 2008	Nottinghamshire
Durham Johnston Comprehensive School	18 July 2008	Durham
Aston Manor School	8 September 2008	Birmingham
Kelmscott School	10 September 2008	Waltham Forest
Highlands School	15 September 2008	Enfield
Featherstone Technology College	26 September 2008	Wakefield
Sir James Smith's Community School	2 October 2008	Cornwall
Lipson Community College	2 October 2008	Plymouth
Tamarside Community College	2 October 2008	Plymouth
Hatch End High School	8 October 2008	Harrow
The Cathedral School (Voluntary Controlled)	10 October 2008	Wakefield
The Bankfield School	23 October 2008	Halton
Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School (Voluntary Aided)	23 October 2008	Warrington
Cheney School	3 November 2008	Oxfordshire
Banbury School	3 November 2008	Oxfordshire
Greenhead High School	7 November 2008	Bradford
Pudsey Grangefield School	14 November 2008	Leeds
The Freeston Business and Enterprise College, Voluntary Controlled	14 November 2008	Wakefield
Notre Dame High School (Voluntary Aided)	19 December 2008	Norfolk
Broad Oak Sports College	7 January 2009	Bury
Morley High School	8 January 2009	Leeds
Perry Beeches School	5 February 2009	Birmingham
Ossett School	6 February 2009	Wakefield
Beechwood School	9 February 2009	Slough
Churchfields School	9 February 2009	Swindon
Sutherland Business and Enterprise College	11 February 2009	Telford and Wrekin
Manor Church of England Voluntary Aided School, York	4 March 2009	York
Boston Spa School	6 March 2009	Leeds
Vermuyden School	20 March 2009	East Riding of Yorkshire
Portchester School	15 April 2009	Bournemouth

	Date	Local authority
East Barnet School	20 April 2009	Barnet
Southlands High School	23 April 2009	Lancashire
Harrop Fold School	23 April 2009	Salford
Thrybergh School and Sports College	1 May 2009	Rotherham
Holyhead School	11 May 2009	Birmingham
Rodillian School	19 June 2009	Leeds
Fulham Cross Girls' School and Language College	30 June 2009	Hammersmith and Fulham
Langdon School	2 July 2009	Newham
Newall Green High School	9 July 2009	Manchester
Horbury School	10 July 2009	Wakefield
Acland Burghley	16 July 2009	Camden
Sidney Stringer School	20 July 2009	Coventry
Twyford CE High School (Voluntary Aided)	10 September 2009	Ealing
The Hathershaw College of Technology and Sport	11 September 2009	Oldham
Cowley Language College	16 September 2009	St. Helens
Neston High School	16 September 2009	Cheshire West and Chester
Malton School	2 October 2009	North Yorkshire
Cockermouth School	23 October 2009	Cumbria
Southfield Technology College	23 October 2009	Cumbria
Wakefield City High School	13 November 2009	Wakefield
Upper Shirley High School	23 November 2009	Southampton
Academies (including all-through education establishments)		
West London Academy	13 July 2007	Ealing
Outwood Grange College of Technology	20 July 2009	Wakefield
Bristol Brunel Academy	6 September 2007	City of Bristol
City of London Academy	31 October 2007	Southwark
Francis Combe Academy	29 February 2008	Hertfordshire
George Salter Collegiate Academy	29 February 2008	Sandwell
The Petchey Academy	14 May 2008	Hackney
Haberdashers' Askes's Knights Academy	10 June 2008	Lewisham
Unity City Academy	18 July 2008	Middlesbrough
The Bridge Academy	10 September 2008	Hammersmith and Fulham
City of London Academy - Islington	10 September 2008	Islington
Globe Academy	10 September 2008	Southwark
Evelyn Grace Academy	10 September 2009	Lambeth
New Rickstones Academy	10 September 2009	Essex
Bristol Metropolitan Academy	1 October 2008	City of Bristol
Oasis Academy MediaCityUK	23 October 2008	Salford
Burlington Danes Academy	19 November 2008	Hammersmith and Fulham
City of London Academy	17 March 2009	Southwark
The City Academy	7 September 2009	Hackney
Parkwood Academy	7 September 2009	Sheffield
South Leeds Academy	7 September 2009	Leeds

Schools: Repairs and Maintenance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many schools have been refurbished through the Primary Capital Programme; how many of them were found to have asbestos in the course of the refurbishment; and how many had that asbestos removed; [309983]

(2) how much has been spent on refurbishing schools through the Primary Capital Programme; how much has been spent dealing with asbestos during such refurbishments; and if he will make a statement. [309984]

Mr. Coaker: The Primary Capital Programme was rolled out to all local authorities from April 2009, supported by funding allocations of £755 million in 2009-10 and £893 million in 2010-11. In 2008-09, 23 regional "pathfinder" authorities received funding of £149 million and 32 exemplar projects—20 new build and 12 refurbishment—have already been completed. The programme commits to renewing at least half of all primary schools by 2022-23, and national output assumptions are that 5 per cent. of schools in the worst condition will be rebuilt or taken out of commission and 45 per cent. refurbished.

Responsibility for prioritisation and procurement of specific projects rests with individual local authorities and information on those that involve asbestos removal will not be held centrally. Information on spend is not yet available and the Department does not collect data on spend in relation to the removal of asbestos.

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many entrants there were to *(a)* primary school and *(b)* secondary school teaching through (i) the Graduate Teacher Programme, (ii) a Postgraduate Certificate of Education, (iii) TeachFirst and (iv) a Bachelor of Education degree in the last year for which figures are available. [307327]

Mr. Coaker: The available information is given in the table and shows the number of trainees gaining qualified teacher status (QTS) by the requested routes and phase of training.

Numbers of undergraduate QTS completers are not held separately for BEds, BAs or BScs with QTS.

Teachers gaining QTS by route and phase of training, 2007/08, England

	ITT course type		
	Primary	*Secondary*	*Total*
Graduate Teacher Programme	1,620	3,210	4,820
Postgraduate	7,920	12,340	20,260
Teach First Programme	0	270	270
Undergraduate (BA or BSc with QTS, or BEd)	5,340	870	6,210

Notes:

1. Excludes cases where QTS was granted primarily as a result of assessment-based training.
2. Figures for secondary also include those for key stage 2-3.
3. Other routes to QTS not presented here include: Overseas Trained Teacher programme; and the Registered Teacher programme.
4. The recruitment figures for Teach First are starters at the Teach First summer institute. This is the most comparable indicator to 'entrants' via other initial teacher training routes. Teach First is mainly secondary but there is a pilot of 30 primary places spread across 2008/09 and 2009/10.
5. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

TDA's Performance Profiles.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what methodology will be used to determine the cost to local authorities which do not reduce their emissions below their baseline of the purchase of carbon allowances under the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC); and what he expects the average expenditure of a local authority on such allowances to be in the first year of the implementation of the CRC. [308698]

Joan Ruddock: Any costs (or financial benefits) attributed to local authorities or other CRC participants will be based on a participant's relative placing in the CRC league table. The expenditure of a local authority or other CRC participant on the purchase of carbon allowances cannot be forecast as it will depend on a range of factors including participants' planned energy efficiency improvements and their approach to risk management.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effects of the outcomes of the Copenhagen climate change conference on his Department's policies. [309315]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 42, for the Government's assessment of the Copenhagen conference.

At home, the UK's Low Carbon Transition Plan provides a long-term vision to make the UK a low carbon economy while maximising economic opportunities, maintaining secure energy supplies and protecting the most vulnerable in society. No changes are envisaged following the immediate outcomes of the Copenhagen conference.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was spent by his Department on conferences it organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308825]

Joan Ruddock: For the duration of DECC's existence (approximately one year) there has been nil spend on conferences cancelled.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what pay band his Department's chief information officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307567]

Joan Ruddock: The Department's chief information officer is in Senior Civil Service Pay Band 1. The post is currently filled by a permanent civil servant on loan to DECC. The CIO's delegated budget for 2009-10 is £10.961 million.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many day's sickness absence have been taken by staff in his Department in each month of 2009-10; and at what cost. [308573]

Joan Ruddock: The Department encourages a culture where good attendance is expected and valued. However, it recognises from time to time absences for medical reasons may be unavoidable. The Department aims to treat its staff who are ill with sympathy and fairness and where possible provide them with support which will enable them to recover their health and return to work.

The number of days of sickness absence taken by staff in DECC in each of the last 12 months could be calculated only by incurring disproportionate cost. However, the total number of working days lost due to sickness in the year to 30 September 2009 (the latest available figure) is 2,521, an average of 2.6 days per employee.

The Department does not routinely calculate the number of staff who have received sick pay. As this would involve manually investigating employee sickness records and pay details on an individual basis, the cost of doing this would be disproportionate to the benefit to be derived.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [309911]

Joan Ruddock: Ministers have not received any media training since the creation of the Department in October 2008.

Energy: Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate is of the unit cost of *(a)* subsidising and *(b)* funding the provision of (i) energy-efficient light bulbs and (ii) insulation for a home. [308700]

Joan Ruddock: The main route by which insulation and energy efficient light bulbs are promoted to households is through the Carbon Emission Reduction Target. This is an obligation on energy suppliers to meet household carbon emission saving targets. The suppliers' unit cost of purchase and the level of subsidy they employ is commercial in confidence. The Government estimate that the total unit cost of compact fluorescent lights (including administrative costs) is around £1.41, and for cavity wall insulation is around £455. There are a number of variables which impact the estimates for the level of subsidy suppliers employ, including whether the household is a priority group or non priority group customer and whether it is in social housing. For example, for cavity wall insulation in non social housing, the estimate for energy supplier subsidy is on average just under 100 per cent. for priority group households and just over 50 per cent. for non priority group households.

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since its inception; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309053]

Joan Ruddock: Since its inception on 3 October 2008 and from information held centrally, the number of hotel room nights booked by officials in my Department by November 2009 totalled 1,006. Additionally some officials booked accommodation using their Government procurement cards (GPCs) and to provide details of each transaction would entail disproportionate cost.

Hotel accommodation is provided through a cross-Government hotel booking agent contract awarded by Buying Solutions. Records of fees paid are not centrally recorded and to provide this information would entail disproportionate cost.

Natural Environment Research Council: University of East Anglia

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much the Natural Environment Research Council has provided in grants, subsidies or awards to the Uni[illegible]y of East Anglia in each financial year since 1998; and how much was assigned to the University's Climatic Research Unit in each such year. [310258]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the total value of awards made by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to the university of East Anglia (UEA) in each year from 1998 to 2009. It also includes the value of any of these awards categorised as climate or climate-related. Figures for awards specifically to the Climatic Research Unit are not available. NERC believes, however, that grants made to Climatic Research Unit researchers comprise a minor fraction of the climate and climate-related investment at UEA shown in the table.

£

	Value of awards	*Climate or climate-related*
1998	948,384.94	62,882.10
1999	11,287,324.06	402,827.36
2000	1,941,181.48	323,862.26
2001	1,748,299.40	49,126.90
2002	2,863,353.23	496,085.72
2003	2,962,350.43	380,176.50
2004	4,799,174.17	535,019.81
2005	1,221,937.41	154,244.23
2006	5,629,314.61	1,437,330.11
2007	4,274,160.15	1,002,880.45
2008	3,493,268.34	292,047.28
2009	1,713,297.00	66,303.42
Total	42,882,045.22	5,202,786.14

Tidal Power

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of Seagen's tidal stream project technology located in Strangford Lough and its possible application in other waters of the United Kingdom, with particular reference to the River Thames; and if he will make a statement. [309662]

Mr. Kidney: Funding bodies such as Technology Strategy Board and Carbon Trust who have provided funding to the Seagen project have made assessments of the technology, which is the most advanced tidal stream technology.

It is for developers to determine where the most suitable locations are to deploy their devices. The UK tidal stream resource has been mapped by a project team led by APB Marine Environmental Research and this can be viewed at

http://www.renewables-atlas.info/

DEFENCE

Equipment and Vehicles: Afghanistan

16. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether new equipment and vehicles being introduced for use in Afghanistan are available for pre-deployment training. [309580]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There is always a difficult balance to strike when we provide new equipment and vehicles for operations in Afghanistan. We want to allow our deployed forces to take advantage of the latest equipment as soon as possible. On the other hand, they must be thoroughly trained on the equipment they use before they face the enemy.

We endeavour to deploy complete equipment capability, which is a combination of trained manpower and sustainable equipment. To do this, often the first delivery of a new item of equipment is required for training to ensure the best effect is achieved from the new capability once deployed. That said, there can be occasions, particularly with less complex equipments, when it makes sense to strike a different balance and train in theatre.

Skill Force

18. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has provided support to Skill Force to place former service training personnel in employment in secondary schools in Nottingham. [309583]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has been a firm supporter of Skill Force since the idea of using retired service personnel to re-motivate young people was first suggested and inspired its creation in 2000.

Skill Force has received a grant of £30,000 from the Ministry of Defence towards a Two Year Pilot Internship Programme for personnel recovering from physical and psychological injuries and illness as part of their rehabilitation pathway and a lieutenant-colonel is currently seconded full time to manage the programme.

No interns have yet been placed in the Nottinghamshire area. This is because locations for interns reflect their personal preferences.

Southern Afghanistan

19. **Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the implications for UK forces in southern Afghanistan of the recent US decision on troop numbers. [309584]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We welcome the US announcement that it will deploy additional forces to Southern Afghanistan. These additional troops will have a positive impact in increasing international security assistance force capacity to conduct security operations in the south and to train and partner the Afghan National Security Forces.

We continue to work closely with our American counterparts and ISAF commanders to determine the best allocation of tasks in Southern Afghanistan.

Security Situation: Afghanistan

20. **Mr. Leigh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the security situation in Afghanistan. [309586]

Bill Rammell: We recognise that the security situation in Afghanistan remains serious, however, in the past year much has been achieved.

At the end of 2009, we and the United States marines provided security for over 50 per cent. of the Helmand population, which is set to increase in 2010.

Veteran Support

21. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of support provided by his Department to service personnel leaving the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [309587]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Although the great majority of service personnel make a successful transition from the armed forces to civilian life, the Ministry of Defence recognises that it can be a daunting experience. Therefore, my Department remains committed to supporting service leavers in making this important step.

I am satisfied that the existing resettlement arrangements offered to service leavers by my Department remain robust and effective. However, resettlement arrangements are kept under constant review, to ensure that the needs of service leavers are met.

The last major assessment of my Department's resettlement provision was undertaken in 2007 by the National Audit Office.

The NAO commended the assistance offered to service leavers in helping them transition to civilian life, and found that 94 per cent. of service personnel who were seeking work using the Career Transition Partnership services were in employment within six months of leaving the armed forces.

UK-US Defence Cooperation Treaty

22. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on the ratification of the UK-US defence co-operation treaty. [309588]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I speak to Secretary Gates regularly, and the UK-US Defence Trade Co-operation treaty is a frequent subject of discussion. My Cabinet colleagues, other Ministers and senior officials also raise the treaty regularly with their counterparts, and we look forward to early ratification.

Afghanistan-Pakistan Border Region

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security threat posed by the Taliban in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region. [309573]

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security threat posed by the Taliban in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region. [309581]

Bill Rammell: The threat posed by the Taliban remains serious. On both sides of the border efforts to bring stability and operations to constrict the insurgents' ability to operate continue.

This approach was set out by the Prime Minister in our April 2009 policy document "Afghanistan-Pakistan: The Way Forward".

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region. [309582]

Bill Rammell: The threat posed by the Taleban remains serious. On both sides of the border efforts to bring stability and operations to constrict the insurgents' ability to operate continue.

This approach was set out by the Prime Minister in our April 2009 Policy Document 'Afghanistan-Pakistan: The Way Forward'.

Air Force: Military Bases

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2009, *Official Report,* column 90W, on the Royal Air Force: military bases, what provision of the Data Protection Act 1999 governs the withholding of the name of each base commander requested in the question; and if he will make a statement. [309128]

Bill Rammell: In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 the names of the RAF commanders are classed as personal data. Section 1(1) of the Act defines 'personal data' as information which relate to a living individual, who can be identified from the data. The First Data Principle requires that personal data have to be processed fairly and lawfully and to allow disclosure have to meet one of the conditions contained in schedule 2. One of the conditions is the consent of the person. In cases where the individual's personal details have already been made public they would have had to provide consent, which would fulfil the first condition contained at schedule 2 to the Act.

The names of the Station Commanders for RAF Wyton, RAF Digby and RAF St. Mawgan were incorrectly omitted from the reply given on 7 December 2009, *Official Report,* column 90W due to an administrative error. Their names are shown as follows:

Base	*Position*	*Name/Rank*
RAF Wyton	Station Commander	Group Captain Smith
RAF Brampton		
RAF Henlow		
RAF Digby	Station Commander	Group Captain Bailey
RAF St. Mawgan	Station Commander	Wing Commander Loader

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of waterproof clothing issued to members of the armed services. [309644]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Performance of in-service items is assessed in two ways: defect reports from the users and periodic visits to front line command operational units to seek user feedback on equipment. There have been no defect reports or concerns relating to the performance of in-service items. A trial was recently carried out to compare the in-service waterproof clothing with two commercially available products, from two suppliers, in which the in-service waterproof clothing performed extremely well.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will introduce the taped seam clothing specification developed for waterproof clothing as part of his Department's Personal Equipment and Common Operational Clothing programme. [309645]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Personal Equipment and Common Operational Clothing Programme is an ongoing project, and no decisions about whether to change the specification of waterproof clothing have yet been made.

Colombia: Military Aid

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK service personnel are assigned to duties in Colombia. [309568]

Bill Rammell: There are currently two military personnel assigned to diplomatic duties and attached to the British embassy in Bogota. In addition, there are a small number of personnel conducting counter-narcotics capacity building activities.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on the future of manufacturing of Chinook helicopters in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [309481]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The intent to purchase 22 new Chinook helicopters was announced on 15 December 2009, *Official Report,* columns 99-100WS. The place of final assembly of these helicopters will be decided later this year, and will be based on ensuring that the aircraft are delivered at the rate and quality required and in the most cost-effective manner. Through-life support of our Chinook fleet will continue to be carried out in the UK with our industrial partners.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the first Chinook reverted from HC3 to HC2 will be deployed to Afghanistan. [308612]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The first of eight Chinook HC3 aircraft, reverted to HC2 Support Helicopter standard, was delivered for training purposes in November 2009, and is therefore already fulfilling tasking commitments as part of the wider Chinook fleet. A second Chinook is scheduled for delivery shortly, when it will also be available for training purposes. The remaining six aircraft will be delivered during the course of 2010 and delivery is expected to be complete by the end of the year. This will allow us to deploy more Chinooks to Afghanistan in the course of 2010.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many combat-ready helicopters are stationed at the British Sovereign Base Area of *(a)* Akrotiri and *(b)* Dhekelia. [309084]

Bill Rammell: There are no combat-ready helicopters stationed at the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri or Dhekelia.

Radioactive Materials: Transport

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the high security vehicles for the transfer of special nuclear materials are still in service. [308189]

Bill Rammell: In support of the UK's nuclear deterrent, High Security Vehicles are used to transport special nuclear material between the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Burghfield and the Royal Naval Armament Depot Coulport. These vehicles are planned to remain in service until they are replaced by the Truck Cargo Heavy Duty Mk 3. As I told the hon. Member in the answer I gave on 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 237W, these are planned to be brought into service by the end of 2010.

Yemen: Military Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK armed forces personnel are based in Yemen; and what their role is. [309637]

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will deploy UK armed forces personnel to Yemen. [309739]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary told the House on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 21, we are pursuing a cross-governmental strategy in Yemen based on addressing the causes of conflict, support for political structures, building Yemeni capacity to tackle security, and helping the Yemeni Government to deliver the functions of the state.

The Ministry of Defence is fully engaged in this strategy, and there are currently two UK military personnel in the Defence Section of the UK embassy in Yemen, whose role is to advise the ambassador on defence issues.

Our relationship with Yemen, as with many other countries, also includes work on counter-terrorism. At the invitation of the Government of Yemen we are providing a training and mentoring programme for the Yemen Coast Guard and we are also offering training to the counter-terrorist police unit. It is not the practice of the Government to make public the details of such assistance to individual countries as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations.

We will continue to offer support to the Government of Yemen and will consider any further requests for training assistance.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309059]

Mr. Michael Foster: The information requested is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate cost to provide.

Overseas Aid: Uganda

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make provision of aid by his Department to Uganda conditional on a removal of anti-homosexual legislation and ending of public statements of anti-gay prejudice by Ugandan Government ministers. [308142]

Mr. Thomas: Aid provided by the Department for International Development (DFID) to Uganda is conditional on progress in reducing poverty, strengthening financial management and respecting human rights and international obligations. Recent assessments of human rights in Uganda indicate mixed progress. The UK Government, alongside the EU, US, French, Canadian and Swedish Governments, has lobbied intensely against the introduction of new anti-homosexual legislation in Uganda. We are monitoring this situation closely. DFID will continue to take the human rights situation into account when making decisions on funding to Uganda.

St. Helena: Airports

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent progress has been made on deciding upon air access options for St Helena. [309106]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the statement the Secretary of State for International Development made on 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 114-15WS on St. Helena.

Tony Blair

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials of his Department are presently seconded to support Tony Blair in his role as Middle East peace envoy; what procedure is in place for those officials to report formally to their home Department; and whether they remain subject to the Civil Service code. [309247]

Mr. Michael Foster: At present the Department for International Development (DFID) has one person seconded to the Office of the Quartet Representative (OQR). This secondee is tasked on a day-to-day basis by the Head of the OQR, but reports formally to the Head of DFID's office in Jerusalem. As the secondee continues to be a UK civil servant, they are still subject to the Civil Service code.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what date *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department last met Tony Blair in his capacity as Middle East peace envoy. [309249]

Mr. Michael Foster: Tony Blair was appointed the representative of the Middle East diplomatic Quartet (the United Nations, Russian Federation, United States, and European Union) in June 2007. There have been no formal meetings between Tony Blair and the Secretary of State for International Development, or other Ministers in the Department of International Development, since he was appointed to this role.

Staff from the Department for International Development's office in Jerusalem are in regular contact with the Office of the Quartet Representative, which is also based in Jerusalem.

World Food Programme

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department's assessment of the benefits of the World Food Programme has changed in the last three years. [309793]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) delivers more humanitarian assistance through the World Food Programme (WFP) than through any other agency.

The UK Government continue to recognise the vital role of the WFP in responding to emergencies around the world, saving millions of lives. The WFP plays an important role in emergency logistics, preparedness and disaster risk management and in fragile and post-conflict situations is often uniquely placed to help deliver effective transitions to stability.

WFP is also increasingly working to enhance long-term food security. Examples include programmes to improve nutrition and using their local purchasing power to create markets for smallholder farmers. However the evidence base for the effectiveness of some interventions, especially in more stable development contexts, requires strengthening.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reason the UK contribution to the World Food Programme has been reduced in real terms since 2008; on what projects or programmes expenditure has been reduced as a consequence; and if he will make a statement. [309795]

Mr. Michael Foster: UK direct contributions to WFP in 2008 and 2009 were £89.9 million (equivalent to US$169 million) and £81.7 million (equivalent to US$127.6 million) respectively. These are the two highest contributions in the period 2004-09. Our ranking among WFP's donors was similar (seventh in 2008 and eighth in 2009) and our share of WFP's total income (in US$ terms) was almost the same (3.3 per cent. in 2008 and 3.2 per cent. in 2009). In both years we contributed more to WFP than to any other humanitarian agency or fund.

Our contributions to WFP take into account the different ways in which we can help protect the most vulnerable. The main reason we contributed less to WFP in some countries in 2009 is that while the food price crisis of 2008 required an exceptional food assistance response, the persisting problems of food insecurity required a broader range of actions—not all involving WFP. For example in Bangladesh we are tackling chronic food insecurity through our social protection, livelihoods and health/nutrition interventions. In Kenya we are supporting non-governmental organisations that who are specifically working on child malnutrition.

Our 2008 funding was also boosted by the response to Cyclone Nargis (£12.6 million equivalent to US$24.8 million) and the final year of our institutional strengthening programme with WFP (£2.8 million equivalent to US$5.0 million).

HEALTH

Alcoholism: Health Services

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related admissions there were for 16 to 24 years olds in *(a)* Northamptonshire, *(b)* the East Midlands and *(c)* England in each of the last three years. [308647]

Gillian Merron: The number of 16 to 24-year-olds admitted to hospital with an alcohol-related diagnosis in Northamptonshire, the East Midlands and England for the last three years is given in the table. The Department does not collect data on the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions in Wales.

Data on alcohol-related admissions in Wales were published by the Welsh Assembly Government in their annual publication Substance Misuse in Wales. However, it is important to note that the methodology used to produce these data differ from that used for England and so the two sets of data are not comparable.

Number of hospital admissions of patients aged 16 to 24-year-olds with an alcohol-related diagnosis, 2006-07 to 2008-09

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Northamptonshire	535	626	679
East Midlands	3,396	4,488	4,518
England	46,852	49,287	49,315

Activity:
Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.
Alcohol-related admissions:
The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory.
Ungrossed data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Data quality:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Assessing growth through time:
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.
Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Assignment of episodes to years:
Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care

Babies: Screening

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to implement the recommendations of the NHS Human Tissue Authority Research Project entitled "Routine examination of the newborn: the EMREN study". [308273]

Ann Keen: Recommendations from research funded by the Health Technology Assessment Programme "Routine examination of the newborn: the EMREN study" (2004) have been taken forward through:

> the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guideline "Intrapartum care: care of healthy women and their babies during childbirth" (2007) which can be viewed at:
>
> www.nice.org.uk/CG55
>
> the Royal College of Midwives' practice guideline: "Evidence-based guidelines for midwifery-led care in labour" (2008) which can be viewed at:
>
> www.rcm.org.uk/college/standards-and-practice/practice-guidelines/
>
> "Standards for Maternity Care" (2008) which include examination of the newborn, jointly developed by The Royal Colleges of: Midwives, Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Anaesthetists, and Paediatrics and Child Health. The document can be viewed at:
>
> www.rcog.org.uk/files/rcog-corp/uploaded-files/WPRMaternityStandards2008.pdf

Carers

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the number of people who have left full-time employment in the last three years to become a carer. [308149]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

Carers: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people resident in Tamworth constituency and aged over 60 were registered as carers in each year since 2007. [309444]

Phil Hope: Carers may register with a range of organisations for different purposes—there is no single register as such.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care does not collect the number of registered carers.

The number of carers aged 65 and over offered an assessment or review by Staffordshire county council was 1,130 in 2007-08 and 1,260 in 2008-09 (provisional).

Data at constituency level are not centrally available.

Children: Obesity

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of children between *(a)* five and 10 and *(b)* 11 and 16 years old have been diagnosed as clinically overweight in (i) England and (ii) Milton Keynes in each year since 1997. [308086]

Gillian Merron: The information is not available in the format requested. Data are not held nationally on children who have been diagnosed as clinically overweight.

Children trend table 4 in the "Health Survey for England—2008: trend tables" contains the percentage of children aged 2-10 and 11-16 in England who are overweight in each year between 1997 and 2008. This publication has been placed in the Library.

Further information on the proportion of children who are overweight in England is collected through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Table A in the NCMP main report shows the prevalence of overweight children aged 4-5 years and 10-11 years in Milton Keynes primary care trust area for 2006-09. Copies of the publications have been placed in the Library.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children under the age of 16 years old in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* England were classified as (i) overweight and (ii) obese at the latest date for which information is available; [308742]

(2) how many children under the age of 16 years old diagnosed as diabetic were overweight or obese in each of the last five years. [308745]

Gillian Merron: The data are not available in the requested format.

Data showing the number of children in England who are overweight and obese have been published in the Health Survey for England—2008: trend tables. In the Population Number Estimate Tables, Table 6 contains the numbers of children aged two to 15 years old who are overweight and obese. This table is available from the following link:

> www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles-related-surveys/health-survey-for-england/health-survey-for-england-2008-trend-tables

A copy of the full report is available on the Information Centre website at:

> www.ic.nhs.uk

Data on the number of children under 16 with diabetes who are overweight or obese are not collected centrally.

Continuing Care

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients qualified for continuing healthcare in each primary care trust area in each of the last three years. [309312]

Phil Hope: The requested information is provided in the following table.

Number receiving NHS continuing healthcare 2007-08 to 2009-10.

Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*Quarter*		
		2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
	England	24,952	37,920	44,924
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	126	518	561
5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	96	285	309
5A9	Barnet PCT	242	363	431
5JE	Barnsley PCT	51	70	176
5ET	Bassetlaw PCT	17	38	58

Number receiving NHS continuing healthcare 2007-08 to 2009-10

			Quarter	
Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset PCT	158	234	213
5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	172	151	226
5QG	Berkshire East PCT	71	535	265
5QF	Berkshire West PCT	268	186	193
TAK	Bexley Care Trust	127	155	122
5PG	Birmingham East and North PCT	147	220	258
5CC	Blackburn with Darwen PCT	49	46	65
5HP	Blackpool PCT	55	230	64
5HQ	Bolton PCT	119	175	277
5QN	Bournemouth and Poole PCT	146	418	670
5NY	Bradford and Airedale PCT	166	328	683
5K5	Brent PCT	583	344	510
5LQ	Brighton and Hove City PCT	156	154	176
5QJ	Bristol PCT	86	295	366
5A7	Bromley PCT	168	173	219
5QD	Buckinghamshire PCT	0	375	421
5JX	Bury PCT	22	42	79
5J6	Calderdale PCT	77	179	254
5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	174	387	401
5K7	Camden PCT	166	115	181
5NP	Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	100	293	402
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT	206	288	305
5C3	City and Hackney PCT	175	218	143
5QP	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	541	684	718
5ND	County Durham PCT	517	575	560
5MD	Coventry PCT	836	449	331
5K9	Croydon PCT	215	311	325
5NE	Cumbria PCT	140	142	240
5J9	Darlington PCT	63	120	173
5N7	Derby City PCT	152	248	332
5N6	Derbyshire County PCT	218	816	848
5QQ	Devon PCT	227	989	757
5N5	Doncaster PCT	153	410	306
5QM	Dorset PCT	42	539	579
5PE	Dudley PCT	277	214	322
5HX	Ealing PCT	77	85	208
5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	285	211	244
5NH	East Lancashire PCT	116	190	144
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	35	86	177
5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	181	181	254
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	329	406	304
5C1	Enfield PCT	168	239	223
5KF	Gateshead PCT	116	93	121
5QH	Gloucestershire PCT	61	280	465
5PR	Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	43	86	103
5A8	Greenwich PCT	135	147	155
5NM	Halton and St Helens PCT	100	326	672
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	94	200	135
5QC	Hampshire PCT	1,076	1,940	1,685
5C9	Haringey PCT	185	238	285
5K6	Harrow PCT	306	320	246
5D9	Hartlepool PCT	152	125	112
5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	56	155	89
5A4	Havering PCT	316	318	262
5MX	Heart of Birmingham PCT	61	57	101
5CN	Herefordshire PCT	52	218	267
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	82	139	104
5AT	Hillingdon PCT	290	376	281
5HY	Hounslow PCT	294	292	181
5NX	Hull PCT	168	65	190
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS PCT	57	253	214
5K8	Islington PCT	127	95	103

Number receiving NHS continuing healthcare 2007-08 to 2009-10.

Organisation code	Organisation name	Quarter		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	140	205	200
5A5	Kingston PCT	71	83	111
5N2	Kirklees PCT	125	299	413
5J4	Knowsley PCT	56	148	183
5LD	Lambeth PCT	120	176	174
5N1	Leeds PCT	520	784	774
5PC	Leicester City PCT	103	162	213
5PA	Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	187	312	426
5LF	Lewisham PCT	113	145	206
5N9	Lincolnshire PCT	431	239	625
5NL	Liverpool PCT	225	285	639
5GC	Luton PCT	130	125	96
5NT	Manchester PCT	128	219	354
5L3	Med way PCT	117	99	139
5PX	Mid Essex PCT	273	201	184
5KM	Middlesbrough PCT	88	148	118
5CQ	Milton Keynes PCT	63	65	81
5D7	Newcastle PCT	66	106	99
5C5	Newham PCT	55	223	149
5PQ	Norfolk PCT	233	339	416
5PW	North East Essex PCT	56	93	83
TAN	North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	n/a	132	192
5AN	North East Lincolnshire PCT	99	n/a	n/a
5NF	North Lancashire PCT	246	330	491
5EF	North Lincolnshire PCT	60	143	238
5M8	North Somerset PCT	34	129	218
5PH	North Staffordshire PCT	121	146	202
5E1	North Tees PCT	96	221	308
5D8	North Tyneside PCT	102	170	152
5NV	North Yorkshire and York PCT	245	386	757
5PD	Northamptonshire PCT	397	476	783
TAC	Northumberland Care Trust	213	216	277
5EM	Nottingham City PCT	87	172	205
5N8	Nottinghamshire County PCT	212	433	659
5J5	Oldham PCT	122	244	282
5QE	Oxfordshire PCT	145	441	563
5PN	Peterborough PCT	123	66	124
5F1	Plymouth PCT	100	398	649
5FE	Portsmouth City PCT	190	222	341
5NA	Red bridge PCT	138	179	161
5QR	Redcar and Cleveland PCT	58	65	72
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham PCT	104	105	95
5H8	Rotherham PCT	82	164	71
5F5	Salford PCT	35	242	208
5PF	Sandwell PCT	333	92	131
5NJ	Sefton PCT	131	174	168
5N4	Sheffield PCT	99	414	670
5M2	Shropshire County PCT	80	280	580
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	125	149	178
5QL	Somerset PCT	120	254	452
5M1	South Birmingham PCT	76	115	209
5P1	South East Essex PCT	111	38	114
5A3	South Gloucestershire PCT	77	135	189
5PK	South Staffordshire PCT	195	310	535
5KG	South Tyneside PCT	156	89	96
5PY	South West Essex PCT	67	49	43
5L1	Southampton City PCT	275	232	236
5LE	Southwark PCT	119	151	128
5F7	Stockport PCT	82	192	339
5PJ	Stoke on Trent PCT	133	141	168
5PT	Suffolk PCT	49	190	299
5KL	Sunderland Teaching PCT	203	257	275

Number receiving NHS continuing healthcare 2007-08 to 2009-10

		Quarter		
Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
5P5	Surrey PCT	388	641	739
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	187	216	251
5K3	Swindon PCT	54	73	156
5LH	Tameside and Glossop PCT	103	195	200
5MK	Telford and Wrekin PCT	180	221	324
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	130	154	146
5C4	Tower Hamlets PCT	74	71	114
5NR	Trafford PCT	56	60	90
5N3	Wakefield District PCT	159	190	235
5M3	Walsall PCT	47	272	345
5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	109	131	183
5LG	Wandsworth PCT	59	94	111
5J2	Warrington PCT	105	113	215
5PM	Warwickshire PCT	311	659	881
5PV	West Essex PCT	90	93	113
5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	290	283	315
5P9	West Kent PCT	305	225	372
5P6	West Sussex PCT	365	592	207
5NN	Western Cheshire PCT	93	135	152
5LC	Westminster PCT	239	186	5
5QK	Wiltshire PCT	135	315	453
5NK	Wirral PCT	70	143	288
5MV	Wolverhampton City PCT	127	265	258
5PL	Worcestershire PCT	270	362	384

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309876]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally.

Diabetes: Young People

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 16 years old are being treated for diabetes in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leicester and *(c)* the East Midlands. [308737]

Ann Keen: Sufficient data to answer the question are not collected routinely. Participation in the National Diabetes Audit (NDA) is not mandatory. The NDA does not have one hundred per cent. coverage or participation and therefore cannot provide the information required.

Data from 'Growing Up with Diabetes: Children and Young People with Diabetes in England' reported that in February 2009 there were 16,219 children under the age of 16 in England with diabetes and 950 children under the age of 16 in the East Midlands strategic health authority (SHA) with diabetes. Data are available at SHA level only, not for individual primary care trusts.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the link between diet and diabetes in children. [308743]

Gillian Merron: The Department's National Institute for Health Research is supporting research relating to diabetes in children and associated risk factors such as obesity through the University College London Hospitals biomedical research centre, and through its programme grants for applied research and research for patient benefit funding schemes.

The Yorkshire register of diabetes in children and young people is funded by the Department's policy research programme. Its aim is to describe the epidemiology of diabetes, investigate the molecular and environmental causes of the disease, and facilitate health services research.

Evaluation of the evidence base linking diet to chronic diabetes has informed Government policy on obesity as set out in the strategy document, 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives,' and promoted via social marketing campaign Change4Life.

The Department continues to monitor emerging research findings in this area.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated for the prevention of diabetes in children in the next 12 months. [308746]

Gillian Merron: There are currently no evidence-based interventions that can prevent onset of type 1 diabetes. Therefore, there is no specific funding allocated in the next 12 months for the prevention of type 1 diabetes in children.

Type 2 diabetes is much rarer in children than type 1, and there is a strong evidence base closely linking type 2 diabetes with obesity and inactivity.

The Government are helping to prevent type 2 diabetes in children through cross-government strategies like 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives' which has an aim to reduce the proportion of overweight and obese children, and schemes such as the £75 million Change4Life social marketing programme, which helps individuals and families to make changes for a healthier lifestyle.

We are investing in research into all areas of diabetes. The Department and the Medical Research Council jointly are currently investing around £51 million into diabetes related research.

Dieticians: Manpower

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacancies there were for dieticians in the national health service on average in each of the last five years. [310466]

Ann Keen: Dieticians are not separately identified in the NHS Workforce Census. Dieticians are, however, included within the category of dietetics. The following table outlines the three-month vacancy numbers, for the period March 2005 to March 2009, and total vacancy numbers, for the period March 2008 to March 2009, for the dietetics speciality.

Dietetic vacancy numbers

March each year	*Three-month vacancies*[1]
2005	87
2006	38
2007	30
2008	12
2009	28

[1] Three-month vacancies are vacancies as at 31 March which trusts are actively trying to fill, which had lasted for three months or more.

Doctors: Working Hours

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much PA Consulting is being paid to assist Sir John Temple with his review of medical training under European Working Time Regulations. [309649]

Ann Keen: Professor Sir John Temple's review is looking into the impact of the European Working Time Directive on the quality of postgraduate training for doctors, dentists, pharmacists and healthcare scientists.

The review follows concerns raised by some professional groups, trainees and trainers and it was important to undertake an independent and objective assessment.

Sir John is the review's independent chair and is carrying out the work on behalf of Medical Education England. He is being supported by PA Consulting and their work on this complex project will include a wide range of evidence gathering activities with a large number of professional stakeholders. The contract is worth £297,000.

Drugs: Young Offender Institutions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of inmates of young offenders' institutions were treated for drug addiction in each of the last three years. [310068]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not available.

General Practitioners: Musculoskeletal Disorders

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to enhance training for general practitioners in musculoskeletal medicine with a view to reducing the length of time taken in referral, diagnosis and treatment. [309067]

Ann Keen: The content of curriculum and quality and standard of training for medical students and general practitioners is not the responsibility of the Department but the responsibility of the appropriate professional regulatory body.

However, the Department is committed to working with the professional regulatory bodies, Royal Colleges and others to promote high standards of education and training to ensure that students and doctors are equipped with the up to date knowledge, skills and attitudes essential for professional practice.

Health Services: Armed Forces

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of progress towards implementing the commitments made in the document "The nation's commitment: cross-Government support to our armed forces, their families and veterans". [309491]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The first annual report of the External Reference Group on progress in meeting the commitments contained in the Command Paper, "The Nation's Commitment: Cross-Government support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans" was published on 19 November 2009. All of the health commitments for which the Department has responsibility have been delivered or, in the case of longer term commitments, on course for delivery.

Copies of the report have already been placed in the Library.

Home Care Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the creation of independent provider arms for community care. [309438]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: 'NHS Next Stage Review: Our Vision for Primary and Community Care', (Department of Health July 2008) made a commitment to support the national health service in making local decisions on the governance and organisational models that best underpin the development of flexible, responsive community services. 'Enabling New Patterns of Provision' (Department of Health, January 2009) set out best practice guidance for primary care trusts (PCTs) to support them to make decisions on the most appropriate organisational form or forms for delivery of their directly provided community services. This followed a requirement in the 'Operating Framework 2008-09' that they must have moved into a contractual relationship with the community provider function and achieve business readiness by April 2009.

The 'Operating Framework 2010-11' (Department of Health, 16 December 2009) sets out that by March 2010 PCTs must have agreed with strategic health authorities proposals for the future organisational structure of all current PCT-provided community services.

'NHS Next Stage Review: Our Vision for Primary and Community Care', 'Enabling New Patterns of Provision' and 'Operating Framework 2010-11' have already been placed in the Library and are also available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/index.htm

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Green Paper on Shaping the Future of Care Together did not refer to the Government's policy on there being no cash losers among existing benefit recipients after the implementation of a National Care Service. [310098]

Phil Hope: The Green Paper, 'Shaping the Future of Care and Support Together', made clear that if we reform disability benefits as part of the National Care Service, anyone receiving an affected benefit at the time of reform would continue to receive the equivalent level of support and protection.

Hospital Beds: Dorset

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are for *(a)* the number of bed spaces in Bournemouth hospital and *(b)* the future of Christchurch hospital. [309611]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is a matter for The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Sheila Collins, Chair of Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, informing her of the hon. Member's enquiry. She will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was between general practitioner referral and treatment in respect of *(a)* breast cancer, *(b)* hip replacements, *(c)* cataracts and *(d)* endoscopy in the latest period for which figures are available. [308494]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available information on average waiting times is as follows:

The cancer waiting time standard of a maximum wait of 62 days from urgent referral for suspected cancer to first treatment for breast cancer was introduced for all patients from 2002. The latest data (July to September 2009) show that 97.3 per cent. of providers delivered treatment for breast cancer within 62 days of referral. Statistics on average waiting times between urgent referral and treatment for breast cancer are not collected centrally;

Latest data (October 2009) for trauma and orthopaedics show that the median referral to treatment waiting time for admitted patients was 11.4 weeks, and for non-admitted patients 4.8 weeks. Referral to treatment data are not collected to the level of specific treatments;

Latest data (October 2009) for ophthalmology show that the median referral to treatment waiting time for admitted patients was 9.7 weeks, and for non-admitted patients 5 weeks. Referral to treatment data are not collected to the level of specific treatments; and

Where endoscopies are used for treatment, they are included in the gastroenterology treatment function. Latest data (October 2009) for gastroenterology show that the median referral to treatment wait for admitted patients was 3.8 weeks, and for non-admitted patients 5.6 weeks. Referral to treatment data are not collected to the level of specific treatments.

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on the fees of third party agents in booking hotel accommodation in each of those years. [309054]

Phil Hope: Hotel bookings by civil servants are undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively, and all expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The majority of hotel bookings are made through our hotel contract although some are booked directly. Information on the number of hotel rooms nights booked through our hotel contract is shown as follows.

	Department	*Purchasing and supply agency*	*Medicines and healthcare products regulatory authority*
April 2007 to March 2008	13,205	1,801	2,500
April 2008 to March 2009	16,723	1,969	2,891
April 2009 to November 2009	12,151	1,161	2,164

No fees are paid by the Department or its agencies for bookings made through its hotel booking contract.

Leeds General Infirmary: Manpower

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses were employed at Leeds General Infirmary in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2009. [309391]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the national health service staff in each specified group at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust as at 30 September each year.

		Headcount
	1997	*2008*
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—
Medical and dental staff	1,298	1,768
Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	4,390	4,498

Notes:

1. Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust was formed in 1998 from a complete merger of St. James' and Seacroft University Hospital and United Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.
2. Figures for 1997 are an aggregate of these two predecessor organisations.
3. 2009 figures are not yet available.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Liver Diseases: Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable has been set for the development of the National Liver Strategy; and when the final strategy will be completed. [309652]

Ann Keen: Our intention is to publish a national strategy for consultation by the autumn of 2011.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to consult *(a)* patient groups, *(b)* the public and *(c)* health care professionals in the development of the National Liver Strategy. [309653]

Ann Keen: The Department will work closely with the national health service, public and patient groups on the development of the National Liver Strategy, and will undertake a consultation on the draft strategy before it is finalised.

NHS: Data Protection

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of NHS staff have been disciplined for inappropriate use of information on *(a)* an NHS database and *(b)* medical records in each of the last 10 years. [310121]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held centrally. Legal responsibility for the secure handling and management of patient information rests with individual national health service organisations. It is therefore a matter for NHS organisations to take the appropriate action where patient information has been inappropriately accessed by their staff.

NHS: Motor Vehicles

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department has been of repairing NHS vehicles that have been filled with the wrong type of fuel in each of the last five years. [309617]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect the information requested. Funding of repairs to vehicles is a matter for the local national health service.

NHS: Non-Profit Making Associations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS staff transferred to a social enterprise will remain in the NHS pension scheme; and if he will make a statement. [309887]

Ann Keen: Where primary care trusts and staff set up social enterprises constituted as charities, community interest companies, or industrial and provident societies to deliver services, then staff transferring under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations can continue to benefit from the NHS Pension Scheme while they continue to work on national health service funded services. This is afforded by the provision of a direction under section 7(2) of the Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1967.

NHS: Standards

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for the time taken by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to recommend new indicators to be considered in the Quality and Outcomes Framework. [310127]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The new independent National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) process involves the suggestion of topics by stakeholders and collation of information about potential new indicators reviewed by its independent Primary Care QOF Advisory Committee. Potential topics are prioritised by the committee for further development and go through a period of piloting in a number of general practitioner practices across the United Kingdom. They are then subject to a period of consultation with stakeholders before final publication on the NICE menu for QOF. NHS Employers (on behalf of the Department) and the British Medical Association will then negotiate on which of the published indicators will be applied nationally and what the value of these indicators should be. Full details of the new process can be found in the published document called "Developing clinical and health improvement indicators for the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF)—Interim process guide". A copy has already been placed in the Library.

NHS: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent establishing the NHS Graduate Management Scheme for Communications; how many places will be available on this scheme in each of the next three years; and what the *(a)* wage costs and *(b)* other running costs of this scheme will be in each of those years. [309486]

Ann Keen: The total cost spent on establishing and running the Pilot NHS Graduate Management Scheme for Communications is £1.2 million. This pilot scheme is just one stream of the larger graduate programme. The other established schemes are: General, Human Resources, Finance and Informatics.

There are 12 trainees on the Pilot NHS Graduate Management Scheme for Communications who are each paid a starting salary of £21,733. The total cost (wage and running costs) for each trainee is £100,000 for the two years of the scheme.

This is the same cost per trainee as for the other established graduate management schemes. The pilot communications scheme is the smallest of the schemes.

The pilot communications scheme runs for two years—October 2009 to September 2011, although it is funded over three financial years to cover this period (October 2009 to March 2010, April 2010 to March 2011, April 2011 to September 2011—see the following table for full details.)

The Department's Communications Directorate and Directors of Communications for six strategic health authorities jointly fund this pilot scheme. The NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement manages the scheme.

The breakdown of costs are:

	Wage costs (including on costs such as national insurance and travel costs)	*Running costs*	*Total*
			£
October 2009-March 2010	168,000	182,000	350,000
April 2010-March 2011	343,000	257,000	600,000
April 2011-September 2011	168,000	82,000	250,000
Total	679,000	521,000	1,200,000

Patients: Transport

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of voluntary drivers for NHS health services. [309695]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect information on the number of voluntary car drivers for national health service services. The NHS locally is responsible for managing voluntary driver schemes.

Pharmacy: Regulation

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence is consulting on future General Pharmaceutical Council standards; and what recent assessment has been made of the adequacy of the existing standards. [309449]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As the General Pharmaceutical Council will be independent of Government, it was not thought it appropriate for the Department to consult on these standards on their behalf.

The General Pharmaceutical Council will be a new body with new powers so there are no comparable statutory standards in existence for pharmacy. However, where there are existing standards that cover the same geographical remit as the new regulator, that is Great Britain, they have been used as a starting point for development. In particular, the most recent Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain education standards have been incorporated where possible.

Radiography: Manpower

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many interventional radiologists work in each strategic health authority area; and whether his Department has a target for the preferred number of interventional radiologists per head of population in the NHS. [309977]

Ann Keen: Interventional radiologists (IR) are captured within the clinical radiology specialty in the NHS Workforce Census. IR are not separately identifiable within these figures as shown in the following table.

There is currently no specific target, however, international radiology has been identified as a key priority for medical workforce planning and plans are in place for it to become a recognised sub-speciality.

Workforce planning, including training, in the national health service is managed and led at a local level by the strategic health authorities taking into account the national policy direction.

Local NHS organisations are best placed to determine the levels of service and resource required to meet the health needs of the local population.

Clinical radiology, England at 30 September 2008

	Number (headcount)
England	3,284
North East	168
North West	485
Yorkshire and The Humber	350
East Midlands	234
West Midlands	249
East of England	280
London	470
South East Coast	164
South Central	270
South West	344

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mark Hunter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department *(a)* made projections of the number of passengers departing the UK for all seat types which take account of the rise in air passenger duty on 1 November 2009 and *(b)* has made any such projections in respect of 1 November 2010. [309758]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In March 2009 HMRC published an impact assessment of the reformed APD on its website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/apd-reform-ia.pdf

A copy was deposited in the Library of the House.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors were taken into account in determining which flight seat types would be liable for *(a)* the higher and *(b)* standard air passenger duty. [309760]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Determining air passenger duty (APD) liability by reference to whether carriage on a plane is in the lowest class of travel (in which the majority of passengers travel) or any other class, is a simple and transparent system which minimises administrative burdens and compliance costs.

Banks: Iceland

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his Icelandic counterpart since 5 January 2010 on compensation to UK investors in Icelandic banks who have lost their investments. [309998]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Child Benefit

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many child benefit applications are being processed for *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* non-UK EEA nationals, *(c)* A8 EEA nationals, *(d)* A2 EEA nationals and *(e)* non-European nationals. [308206]

Mr. Timms: All claims for child benefit are checked to establish whether further inquiries are required before being entered into the child benefit computer system.

Where no further inquiries are required, claims are then processed.

In some cases further inquiries are necessary before entitlement is decided.

For non-European nationals when a claimant is subject to immigration control, this can involve inquiries being made with the claimant and the Home Office to determine the claimant's status.

For all other claimants, when European Community regulations are involved, this can involve inquiries being made with the customer and other European economic area member states.

Child Benefit: Overpayments

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the number and *(b)* the amount of child benefit overpayments caused by the failure of a claimant to notify the Child Benefit Office of a change of circumstances in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [308185]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs' systems do not capture the reasons for child benefit overpayments.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what works and refurbishments to offices allocated to Ministers in his Department's buildings that are included in the annual unitary payment have taken place since 27 June 2007. [309114]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: No major works or refurbishments have been undertaken in ministerial offices since 27 June 2007. During that period, only minimal redecoration works and minor office moves have been carried out within the PFI lifecycle fund and met from the annual unitary payment made to the PFI provider.

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and its non-departmental public body has to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) each of its agencies and its non-departmental public bodies has recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [309292]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Neither the Treasury, nor any of its agencies or non-departmental public bodies, have any powers to impose administrative penalties.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps HM Revenue and Customs are taking to prevent alcohol duty fraud in the supply chain. [309533]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 7 January 2010]:* The Chancellor announced at Budget 2009 the revised 'tackling alcohol fraud' strategy which has three principal themes:

Strengthening our operational responses;

Reducing opportunities for fraud;

Closing off illicit supply chains.

HMRC is making good progress on all three strands of this strategy. The regulatory framework is being strengthened to reduce opportunities for fraud; the new operational model for HMRC to respond to fraud using new approaches and the full range of HMRC's powers is on track to be implemented from April 2010; and HMRC is working with the large brewers and wholesale buying groups on developing practical measures to close off illicit supply chains by restricting the availability of illicit alcohol to fraudsters.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what investigations HM Revenue and Customs are conducting into illicit alcohol supply chains. [309535]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 7 January 2010]:* Investigations HM Revenue and Customs are conducting into illicit alcohol supply chains are a confidential matter. The results of investigations into alcohol fraud are published annually in HMRC's Departmental Autumn Performance Report copies of which are available on HMRC's internet site.

Financial Services: Advisory Services

Lorely Burt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons the Financial Services Authority has required independent financial advisers to requalify; and whether it sought legal advice prior to its decision on that matter. [309979]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Financial Services Authority has published several consultations detailing and explaining its proposals for reform of distribution of financial products. These are available on its website. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1285W.

Financial Services: Regulation

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the legislative power used by the Financial Services Authority in requiring independent financial advisers to re-qualify; and if he will make a statement. [308602]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1096W.

Holiday Accommodation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many furnished holiday lettings owned by *(a)* UK residents and *(b)* residents of other EU member states there are in (i) North Yorkshire and (ii) England. [309497]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) administrative systems do not capture information on the number or location of furnished holiday lettings. Non-UK residents are not eligible to claim tax relief under the furnished holiday lettings rules.

Housing: Solihull

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 16 September 2009, *Official Report*, column 2212W, on housing: valuation, how many properties in Solihull local authority area there are with each code for *(a)* type, *(b)* room number, *(c)* bedroom, *(d)* bathroom, *(e)* floors, *(f)* floor level, *(g)* parking, *(h)* garaging, *(i)* conservatory type, *(j)* age, *(k)* outbuilding and *(l)* modernisation. [308764]

Ian Pearson: The number of properties with each individual dwelling house code and each value significant code, for all local authority areas in England, have been placed in the Library of the House

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 10 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 209W, on council tax: valuation, how reputational issues that affect open market value are recorded by the Valuation Office Agency. [308369]

Ian Pearson: Where a reputational issue that might be value significant comes to the attention of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) it can be recorded on the VOA's database by using a 'WK' value significant code and/or it might be noted on a VOA domestic survey record.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 74W, on housing: valuation, whether the Valuation Office Agency takes into account the presence of lack of planning permission when calculating local housing allowance for a dwelling which is a caravan. [308371]

Ian Pearson: The local housing allowance (LHA) was introduced on 7 April 2008 and is applicable to new applicants for housing benefit or to claimants moving property and having a break in claim. However, there are exemptions to the LHA and these include caravans.

Any application to the local authority for housing benefit where the accommodation is a caravan will be subject to a referral to the rent officer for the rent officer to make a determination of a reasonable rent for housing benefit subsidy purposes. In making this determination, the presence or lack of planning permission is not taken into account. The amount of any award for housing benefit will rest with the local authority.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency plans to take steps to increase the proportion of dwellings with *(a)* dwelling house code and *(b)* value significant codes assigned to them. [308682]

Ian Pearson: Dwelling house codes and value significant codes are routinely updated in the course of the VOA undertaking its statutory duty to maintain the current valuation lists of approximately 24 million dwellings in England and Wales. The VOA will always look to ensure that its codes are as up to date and as accurate as possible in order to support its statutory functions.

Imports: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answers of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 583W, on imports: Israel, whether HM Revenue and Customs has requested from supermarkets the information from their tracking system on the origin of imports when the supermarket is not the importer. [309037]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has not requested any information from supermarkets' tracking systems. I refer the hon. Member to my answer to her of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 583W. HMRC only has access to systems and records which relate directly to the customs declaration and to the person shown as the importer/consignee on it.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answers of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 583W, on imports: Israel, what documentation provided in such cases is provided by *(a)* producers, importers or Israeli authorities and *(b)* organisations independent of producers, importers or Israeli authorities [309038]

Mr. Timms: The documentation consists of original commercial documents accompanying any customs import declaration: the sales invoice and delivery note/consignment note/packing list issued by the exporter and showing the UK importer/consignee, which in the case of fresh produce is normally an intermediate company, rather than a UK supermarket; plant health documentation (where required); and where a preferential rate of duty is being claimed, either a proof of preferential origin showing the place of production and zip code on the invoice or a Form EUR1 issued by the exporter and stamped by the Israeli authorities.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 579W, on agricultural products: Israel, what *(a)* the importer, *(b)* the nature of the produce, *(c)* the name of the settlement in which the consignment originated and *(d)* the person or organisation responsible for misidentification was in the case of each of the six consignments wrongly claiming Israeli preferential origin; what sanctions were imposed by HM Revenue and Customs in respect of each consignment; and against whom. [309039]

Mr. Timms: For reasons of commercial confidentiality, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) cannot disclose the names of specific importers/exporters. The information requested in relation to the name of the settlement is not available because no place of production was shown on the proof of origin and HMRC had firm doubts about the origin of the goods.

The identified products were three consignments of wine, two consignments of snacks/soft drinks and one consignment of chocolates. HMRC refused preferential tariff treatment and the UK importer was required to pay the full rate of customs duty on the consignments concerned.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 579W, on agricultural products: Israel, who *(a)* the importer, *(b)* the stated place of origin, *(c)* the actual place of origin and *(d)* the person or organisation responsible for mislabelling was in relation to the two labelling irregularities for herbs; what sanctions were imposed by HM Revenue and Customs in each case; and against whom. [309040]

Mr. Timms: For reasons of commercial confidentiality HM Revenue and Customs cannot release the names of specific importers and exporters.

The accompanying proofs of preferential origin showed that the produce had been produced in one case in 19 different locations including Avital, Nir Moshe, Rewaya and Yavne-El, which had not been included in the lists of settlements and accompanying zip codes circulated by the European Commission.

The place of production shown on outer packaging/cartons was the Jordan Valley.

The goods were released from customs control upon provision of financial security for the full rate of customs duty payable. Inquiries are under way with the Israeli authorities to establish the true place of origin.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 579W, on agricultural products: Israel, what additional checks HM Revenue and Customs has subsequently required of produce *(a)* from the same importer, *(b)* from the same producer and *(c)* from the same place of origin as the misidentified and mislabelled goods referred to in the answer. [309041]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs can confirm that once a duty demand is issued, it is their normal policy to examine further customs entries for the parties involved and to issue additional demands if necessary. They will also target any importer known to have production facilities in the occupied territories.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 580W, on cosmetics: Israel, how many of the consignments referred to in the answer came from each post code of place of origin; and for how many of these consignments HM Revenue and Customs was informed that the business's head office address was the place of origin. [309042]

Mr. Timms: The information requested could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost, as HM Revenue and Customs would have to obtain and examine the documents, most of which will be held by the importer, in respect of the 996 customs declarations concerned.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 580W, on cosmetics: Israel, what steps HM Revenue and Customs takes in such cases to ensure the place of production and not the business head office is given as place of origin. [309043]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) provide specific guidance to importers, which is available at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/downloadFile?contentID=HMCE_PROD1_028744

In cases where there is any doubt as to the actual place of production, the claim to preference will be verified with the issuing authority in Israel.

HMRC has also asked the European Commission to ensure that in its routine monitoring of the operation of the Technical Arrangement it checks that the Israeli authorities are including the actual place of production, rather than a head office, on the proof of origin.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 580W, on cosmetics: Israel, how many consignments of produce imported into the UK originated in Mizpe Shalem in each of the last three years; and what the nature of the produce was. [309044]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories do not have separate country codes.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 579W, on agricultural products: Israel, what steps HM Revenue and Customs takes when it detects mislabelling to share that information with the equivalent authorities in other EU member states. [309045]

Mr. Timms: Any irregularities detected as a result of the application of the EU—Israel Technical Arrangement are reported directly to the European Commission. The Commission is co-ordinating community-wide action in ensuring that only those products which are entitled to Israeli preference receive such benefit, and it disseminates information about the action being taken and the results of those actions to all member states.

Income Tax: Pensioners

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* pensioner households that have paid income tax in each year since 1997. [309351]

Mr. Timms: Estimates for the number of pensioner taxpayers are shown in table 2.1 "Number of individual income taxpayers", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/menu.htm

The information is based on the Survey of Personal Incomes of which 2006-07 is the latest available, and projected in line with Budget 2009 assumptions.

The estimated percentage of pensioners who are taxpayers can be calculated by using table 2.1 "Number of individual income taxpayers" and the latest population estimates and projections published on the Office for National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/NPP2008/wUK085y.xls

Estimates for the number of pensioner households that paid income tax since 1997 is not available. However, an estimated 3.6 million (56 per cent.) households headed by a person of state pension age will pay income tax in 2009-10. This estimate excludes pensioners who live in households not headed by a person of state pension age, or in households with other family units.

This estimate has been calculated using HM Treasury's tax and benefit micro-simulation model using Family Resources Survey 2007-08 data uprated to 2009-10 levels of prices and earnings.

Inheritance Tax: Housing

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross increase in cash terms in revenue from inheritance tax was consequent on the adjustment of inheritance tax valuations following a challenge by the Valuation Office Agency in the latest year for which figures are available. [308684]

Mr. Timms: The gross increase in cash terms in revenue from inheritance tax as a result of challenges by the Valuation Office Agency for 2008-09 amounts to approximately £96 million.

National Insurance Contributions: Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the cost of the proposed increases to national insurance contributions for employers to local government employers in 2010-11. [308352]

Mr. Timms: There are no proposed increases to employer national insurance contributions in 2010-11. Employer contributions are set to increase by 1 per cent. to 13.8 per cent. in 2011-12.

Information on the cost of the proposed change to local Government employers is not readily available.

Non-Domestic Rates: Church Halls

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency undertakes valuations of church halls hired out for social events unconnected with religious worship; and whether premises thus used are liable for business rates. [308635]

Ian Pearson: As stated in the Local Government Finance Act 1988, if Church halls, chapel halls and similar buildings are used in connection with a place of public religious worship and for the purposes of the organisation responsible for the conduct of public religious worship, they are, like the church or place of public religious worship, exempt from business rates. This exemption usually extends to where they are hired out for social events.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason the Valuation Office Agency *(a)* has removed all waterfront hereditaments in ports in Hull from the new business rates rating assessment regime and restored them to the competent harbour authorities assessment regime and *(b)* has not taken a similar approach in other ports. [308639]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby (Mr. Mitchell) on 12 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 877W.

The reason that some separately assessed property within the port of Hull has been merged with the assessment for the statutory port is that new information has been provided and there has been agreement of the facts between the parties. This reflects the success of the "fast-track" appeals process applied by the Valuation Office Agency to cases involving a significant and unexpected backdated liability. Where ratepayers co-operate and provide the information requested, the agency has been able to review the rating lists and make amendments to reflect new information that has a material affect on the assessment.

The same approach has been applied at other ports. Where changes have not been made and properties continue to be separately assessed for business rates this is either because the facts do not support the case for change or the parties have not agreed the facts that may still prove material.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the appeals against decisions relating to the new business rates arrangements for ports businesses *(a)* have and *(b)* have not resulted in a reduction in rateable values. [308805]

Ian Pearson: Following the review of ports by the Valuation Office Agency—which was undertaken to ensure that all individual business properties within and outside ports are rated fairly to ensure that the burden of contributions to funding local government is shared fairly among businesses around the country—a total of 232 appeals on properties within ports in England had been settled at 16 December 2009. Of these, 70 were resolved by a reduction in rateable value and 162 were resolved without a reduction in rateable value.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees of his Department and its agencies have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308520]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is the policy of HM Treasury and OGC not to release data concerning fewer than five staff where to do so could lead to the identification of protected personal information about individual members of staff. Since 1999, I can confirm that the information requested relates to fewer than five cases. Information for earlier years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Under the Data Protection Act 1998, DMO would not record this information. Any supporting documentation is destroyed after six months due to the Data Protection Act.

Peers: Domicile

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information HM Revenue and Customs holds on the number of Members of the House of Lords who are non-domiciled for tax purposes; and if he will make a statement. [307060]

Mr. Timms: If an individual completes a Self Assessment Tax Return, they need only tell HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) their domicile status should they have foreign income and/or gains and want to claim the remittance basis of taxation. It is for the individual to decide whether they want to claim the remittance basis.

Therefore, individual tax returns for individual Members of the House of Lords will show whether or not they have claimed the remittance basis of taxation based on a non-domiciled status.

HMRC does not collate or aggregate this information for Members of the Lords as a group, as the Members' records are dealt with by several different operational units.

Pre-Budget Report 2009

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 359-71, on the pre-Budget report, when he intends to implement each of the initiatives announced; what the estimated cost of each such initiative is; and if he will make a statement. [308275]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the 2009 pre-Budget report (Cm 7747) for detailed information on all of the initiatives announced, and their estimated Exchequer cost.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the pre-Budget report of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 359-71, what effect the *(a)* cap on public sector pay and *(b)* increase in national insurance contributions will have on expenditure on (i) the national health service, (ii) the police force and (iii) schools. [307624]

Mr. Byrne: In the pre-Budget report 2009 the Government once again recognised that public sector workers are at the heart of delivering world-class public services and supporting long-term economic growth, prosperity and fairness and highlighted that, following substantial investment in public sector pay since 1997, pay restraint will be important to support front-line delivery while ensuring sustainable public finances over the medium term.

The 1 per cent. pay cap will generate £3.4 billion of departmental savings by 2012-13, helping to protect front-line service delivery and jobs in the coming years. A modest proportion of the revenue raised from the increase in national insurance contributions announced at PBR to help protect front-line public services will come from public sector employers. The PBR identified almost £17 billion of efficiency savings gained from Smarter Government and the Public Value Programme that will enable improvements in public services to be sustained.

Public Sector Relocation Independent Review

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1401W, on public sector relocation: independent review, if he will place in the Library a copy of the database for council tax revaluation modelling that was provided to the Lyons Inquiry into local government finance redacting sensitive personal data. [308285]

Ian Pearson: No single database for council tax revaluation modelling exists. A number of datasets were provided to the Lyons review team during the period of their review. These datasets contain property attribute and sales data at individual property level, which, for the protection of individual taxpayers, cannot be released into the public domain.

Revenue and Customs

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cost to a customer was of *(a)* a call to the Tax Credits Helpline, *(b)* a call to the Child Benefit Helpline and *(c)* a personal visit to an HM Revenue and Customs inquiry centre in the latest period for which figures are available. [308193]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available. Calls are charged to the customer based on the tariff arrangements they have with their service provider, the device they use to call and the location from which they call. The cost to the customer of visiting an enquiry centre is dependent on several factors including their personal travel costs, which the Department does not have access to.

Revenue and Customs: Cost-effectiveness

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Office of Government Commerce Gateway reviews HM Revenue and Customs has performed since 2006; what the title of each such review is; and at which gate each such review is. [308082]

Mr. Timms: The following table gives details of the 71 OGC Gateway reviews undertaken or planned for HM Revenue and Customs programmes and projects for the four years 2006-07 to 2009-10. It includes the title of each programme or project and the specific Gateway review number.

Programme/project title	*Gate No.*[1]
2006-07	
Estates and Support Services Transformation Programme	0

Programme/project title	*Gate No.*[1]
ASPIRE ('Acquiring Strategic IT Partners for the Inland Revenue')	5
Processing Pacesetter Programme	0
Replacement Radio Project	2
STRIDE (IT equipment refresh project)	4a
New Tax Credits	5
Estates Consolidation Programme	0
Efficiency Programme	0b
HMRC Banking Change Project	2
Pensions Simplification	4
Construction Industry Scheme Reform Project	4
Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight ('CHIEF') replacement project	2
Total reviews (2006-07)—12	
2007-08	
Modernising Stamp Duty	5
Carter (online services) Programme	0
Estates Transformation Programme	0a
Estates Consolidation Programme	0a
Processing Pacesetter Programme	0a
Enterprise Infrastructure Foundation Programme	0
Customs Service Transformation Programme	0
Government Banking Programme	0
Health in Pregnancy Grant Project	1
Government Banking Procurement Project	3
New Penalties Project (1)	2
National Direct Debits	2
Total reviews (2007-08)—12	
2008-09	
Compliance and Enforcement Programme	0
Excise Movement and Control System	0
Consolidation of Inward Cheques and Forms	4
Health in Pregnancy Grant Project	2/3
Carter (online services) Programme	0a
Aviation Duty Project	1/2
National Direct Debits Project	4
Carter (online services) Corporation Tax Project	1/2
Carter (online services) VAT Project	1/2
Business.Gov Programme	0
Tax Credits Transformation Programme	0
Customs Handling of Import and Export Freight ('CHIEF') replacement project	3
MPPC3 (PAYE modernisation) Programme	0
New Penalties Project (1)	3
Savings Gateway Project	1
Compliance and Enforcement Caseflow Project	2
Government Banking Change Project	4
World Class Programme	0
Estates Transformation Programme	0b
Data Centre Sub-Programme	0
Quantum (delivery of IT services) Programme	0
Compliance and Enforcement Caseflow Project	4
Health in Pregnancy Grant Project	4
Data Security Programme	0
Carter (online services) VAT Project	3
Carter (online services) Corporation Tax Project	3
Total reviews (2008-09)—26	
2009-10	
New Penalties Project (1)	4
Business.Gov Programme	0a
Compliance and Enforcement Programme	0a
Better Data for CT Project	5
Government Banking Change Project	4a
Excise Movement and Control System	3
EU VAT Refunds Project	2
Estates Consolidation Programme	0b
EU VAT Refunds Project	3
New Penalties Project (2)	1
Customs Service Transformation Programme	0a
Government Banking Programme	0a
Saving Gateway Project (planned)	2
Carter (online services) Corporation Tax Project	4
Carter (online services) VAT Project	4
Validating Household Income for Student Loans Company Project (planned)	4
Government Banking Transition Project (planned)	4a
Saving Gateway Project (planned)	3
New Penalties Project (2) (planned)	3
Filing, Payment and Interest Programme (planned)	0
Compliance and Enforcement Caseflow Project	4a
Total reviews (2009-10)—21	
Total reviews (all years)—71	

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[1] Gateway review stages are: 0 ('Strategic Assessment'—programmes only); 1 ('Business Justification'); 2 ('Delivery Strategy'); 3 ('Investment Decision'); 4 ('Readiness for Service' and 'Operations Review and Benefits Realisation'). Gate numbers with an 'a' or 'b' suffix represent repeat reviews at that level.

Revenue and Customs: Data

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how long HM Revenue and Customs retains *(a)* copies of and *(b)* data contained in tax returns; and if he will make a statement. [308134]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs has recently modified its retention policy and is working towards a position where it will normally retain tax returns and the data they contain plus related correspondence for six years in addition to the current year. Information will be retained for longer periods where necessary, for example where there is a continuing investigation into possible fraudulent or criminal activity.

Revenue and Customs: Northern Ireland

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the staff at each grade in HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland is from each religious background. [309177]

Mr. Timms: The information requested on the community background of HM Revenue and Customs in post as of 1 December 2009 is provided in the following table.

	Protestant		*Roman Catholic*		*Non-determined*	
Grade	*Number*	*Percentage of grade*	*Number*	*Percentage of grade*	*Number*	*Percentage of grade*
SCS,[1] Grade 6, Grade 7, Band T	36	52.2	23	33.3	10	14.5
Senior Officer	39	45.4	40	46.5	7	8.1
Higher Officer	128	50.4	108	42.5	18	7.1
Officer	229	38.8	327	55.3	35	5.9
Assistant Officer	373	39.5	496	52.5	75	7.9
Admin Assistant	80	42.6	90	47.9	18	7.7
Total	885	41.5	1,084	50.8	163	7.7

[1] HMRC's policy is to-not release figures on diversity or community background where there is any risk of individuals being identified. There are very small numbers in four of the grades above and therefore the figures for these four grades have been amalgamated in line with this policy.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many complaints of harassment based on a person's *(a)* race, *(b)* gender and *(c)* religion were made against officers of HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; [309179]

(2) how many officers of HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland have been the subject of more than one complaint of harassment on the grounds of religion in the last five years. [309181]

Mr. Timms: Based on centrally held records, no complaints of harassment against officers of HM Revenue and Customs in Northern Ireland have been made based on a person's race, gender or religion made since January 2007.

Information for earlier periods is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: Surveillance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many authorisations under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 have been *(a)* made and *(b)* refused by the authorising officer in HM Revenue and Customs in each year since the Act came into force. [308346]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is provided in the following table since the formation of HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) in April 2005.

	Applications under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000	
	Made	*Refused*
2005	6480	109
2006	3201	105
2007	3828	85
2008	5364	83
2009	5633	141

The statistics include applications made for assigned matters such as drug and arms smuggling that have now been transferred to either the Serious Organised Crime Agency or the UK Borders Agency.

No central records exist for applications made in the former HM Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue prior to their merger in 2005; collating this information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many callbacks were offered to callers to *(a)* the Tax Credits public helpline, *(b)* the Tax Credits intermediaries helpline, *(c)* the MPs Tax Credits helpline, *(d)* the Child Benefit public helpline and *(e)* all other HM Revenue and Customs helplines in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [308197]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) systems do not capture the number of callbacks offered.

HMRC will shortly begin a six-month review of its numbering strategy, including the feasibility of offering callbacks to customers more readily.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps the Tax Credits Helpline is taking to ensure compliance with item 9 of the HM Revenue and Customs charter, on mobile telephone users; [308198]

(2) what steps the Child Benefit Helpline is taking to ensure compliance with item 9 of the HM Revenue and Customs charter, on mobile telephone users. [308199]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) are committed to keeping the costs of dealing with them as low as possible while improving the service they provide to their customers. In recent months, HMRC Contact Centre have introduced a range of automated advisory messages to its helplines, which mean that many customers have their query answered quickly without having to wait to speak to an advisor.

HMRC Contact Centres will shortly begin an in-depth review of its numbering strategy for a period of six months looking at what can be done in both the short and long term. This review will include the feasibility of offering call backs to customers telephoning from mobile phones. HMRC Contact Centres recognise that this will not be straightforward as it will need to balance the cost to the Department and the likely impact on service levels against the costs to the customer.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times a caller had to wait on hold before speaking to an operator on *(a)* the Tax Credits public helpline, *(b)* the Tax Credits intermediaries helpline, *(c)* the MPs Tax Credits helpline, *(d)* the Child Benefit public helpline and *(e)* all other HM Revenue and Customs helplines in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [308202]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs' systems are unable to track the progress of an individual caller through their telephone call.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average length of calls made to *(a)* the Tax Credits public helpline, *(b)* the Tax Credits intermediaries helpline, *(c)* the MPs Tax Credits helpline, *(d)* the Child Benefit public helpline and *(e)* all other HM Revenue and Customs helplines was in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [308203]

Mr. Timms: The information requested, as far is it is available, is provided in the following table.

HMRC average call handling times shown in minutes and seconds

	(a) Tax credits	*(b) Intermediaries*	*(c) MP hotline*	*(d) Child benefit*	*(e) All other helplines*
2005-06	06:12	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	05:26	n/a	05:39	03:56	05:30
2007-08	05:47	06:31	n/a	04:03	05:25
2008-09	06:34	05:50	05:33	05:21	05:37

n/a = Not available.

Note:

HMRC Contact Centres take the average call handling time to be the time spent by the customer on the phone together with any additional time taken by the adviser after the call to complete any tasks.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls were made from a *(a)* landline telephone and *(b)* mobile telephone to (i) The tax Credits public helpline, (ii) the Tax Credits intermediaries helpline, (iii) the MPs Tax Credits helpline, (iv) the Child Benefit public helpline and (v) all other HM Revenue and Customs helplines in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (d) 2008-09. [308204]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs' systems do not capture this information.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what average length of time individual callers to *(a)* the Tax Credit helpline and *(b)* the Child Benefit helpline were kept on hold in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09; and for what average length of time callers to the tax credit helpline were kept on hold in the month before the deadline for renewal of credits in each of those years. [308208]

Mr. Timms: The available information is presented in the following tables.

		Average in seconds
	Child benefit helpline	*Tax credit helpline*
2005-06	n/a	n/a
2006-07	15	20
2007-08	15	23
2008-09	14	29
2009-10 (April to November)	13	23

n/a = Not available

Tax credit helpline	*Average in seconds*
August 2005	n/a
July 2006	21
July 2007	19
July 2008	25
July 2009	21

n/a = Not available

For the purposes of this question, HM Revenue and Customs has interpreted the average length of time individual callers were "kept on hold" as the time customers are on "hold" during a discussion with an adviser.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of callers to the Tax Credits helpline who rang to say they were returning to work after more than 20 weeks in receipt of incapacity benefit or employment support allowance or statutory sick pay and who were not returning to work full-time were informed abut the disability element of tax credits in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09. [308210]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available as HM Revenue and Customs' systems do not capture this information.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 11 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 983W, on Welfare Tax credits: telephone services, what recent steps his Department has taken to review its numbering strategy; and what such steps it plans to take in the next 12 months. [308316]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs is committed to keeping the customer costs of dealing with the Department as low as possible. It regularly reviews how it can improve its services to achieve this objective. It has in recent months, for example, introduced a range of automated advisory messages on its tax credits and Child Benefit helplines which mean that many customers have their query answered at lower cost, since they no longer have to wait to speak to an advisor. The Department will be reviewing its numbering strategy early in the new year.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings Ministers and officials in his Department have had regarding the cost of calling HM Revenue and Customs helplines from mobile telephones; what the outcome of those meetings was; and whether he plans to hold any such meetings in the next six months. [309792]

Mr. Timms: Departmental officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will shortly begin a review of its telephone numbering strategy including examining the feasibility of offering call backs to customers telephoning from mobile phones. HMRC will consult with interested parties and stakeholders as part of this review.

Tax Avoidance

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what investigations HM Revenue and Customs has carried out in the last 12 months into those companies which have relocated their headquarters overseas to minimise their tax burden; and if he will make a statement. [308374]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs may investigate where there is doubt as to whether a purported relocation is genuine. No details are available centrally as to the number of cases of this type that have been investigated and such details could be collated only at disproportionate lost.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the Exchequer of tax avoidance through employee benefit trusts in the latest period for which figures are available. [308970]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs does not record the amounts contributed to employee benefit trusts.

"Protecting Tax Revenues 2009", published alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report and available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/protect-tax-revenue-5450.pdf

provides an illustrative breakdown of the tax gap in 2007-08 by behaviour. Figures for 2008-09 are not available.

Tax Evasion

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the monetary value of tax evaded in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [308375]

Mr. Timms: "Protecting Tax Revenues 2009", published alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report and available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/protect-tax-revenue-5450.pdf

provides an illustrative breakdown of the tax gap in 2007-08 by behaviour. Figures for 2008-09 are not available.

Taxation: Empty Property

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the merits of reducing taxes on landlords of empty premises to encourage more tenants to rent those premises; and if he will make a statement. [308147]

Ian Pearson: The Government believe that the reform of empty property relief in April 2008, in response to recommendations in the Lyons Inquiry and Barker Review of Land Use Planning, is the right decision for the long term.

Taxation: Gaming Machines

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what representations he has received on the taxation of category B3A gaming machines in the last 12 months; [309854]

(2) whether he has had recent meetings with HM Revenue and Customs on the taxation of category B3A gaming machines. [309856]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Treasury Ministers and officials meet with, and receive representations from, a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the usual policymaking process. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Taxation: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people in Nottingham North constituency the amount of whose tax obligations has been reduced in 2009-10. [308498]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available at parliamentary constituency level due to small survey sample sizes at this level of geography. In addition, the information available is based on 2006-07 survey data which would not be reliable for this purpose.

Available information on incomes by parliamentary constituency based on the latest available Survey of Personal Incomes (2006-07) can be found in Table 3.15 "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency" available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu.htm

Transfer Pricing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax revenue was collected by HM Revenue and Customs through investigations into transfer pricing in each year since 2003. [307352]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central (Jim Cousins) on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 938W. The yield for transfer pricing inquires on large business for 2007-08 and 2008-09 was £494 million and £1,564 million respectively. The yield from smaller businesses for the same periods was £25 million and £31 million respectively.

Valuation Office Agency

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 210W, on the valuation office, for what reasons the minutes of the *(a)* electronic capture of hard copy records project board and *(b)* installation of a geographical information system project board are commercially sensitive. [308489]

Ian Pearson: The minutes contain information relating to contract costs which are commercially sensitive and cannot therefore be published.

Valuation Office Agency: Freedom of Information

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable has been set for the Valuation Office Agency to make a substantive response to the internal review of Freedom of Information request 11335561.1/CEO, submitted to the Valuation Office Agency in November 2007. [308685]

Ian Pearson: The Valuation Office Agency's internal review has been completed. The substantive response was issued on 17 December 2009.

Valuation Office Agency: Geographical Information Systems

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency's new geographic information system will be linked to its electronic document and records management database. [308683]

Ian Pearson: There are no current plans to link the VOA's geographic information system to its electronic document and records management system.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what dates the Valuation Office Agency's Geographical Information System Project Board has met since its establishment. [308688]

Ian Pearson: The dates of the Valuation Office Agency's Geographical Information System Project Board were provided on 22 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1049-50W, to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman).

Since then the Project Board has met on the following dates:

22 April 2009
16 June 2009
28 July 2009
10 September 2009
13 October 2009
17 November 2009

Valuation Office Agency: Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what mechanism data from building commencement and building control notices are sent to the Valuation Office Agency by local authorities. [308345]

Ian Pearson: Not all local authorities provide building control notices. Those that do provide building control commencement lists and/or building control completion notices in hardcopy or via e-mail.

Valuation Office Agency: Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 30 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 210W, on the Valuation Office Agency: pay, for what specific examples of commendable performance recognition vouchers have been awarded in the last 12 months. [308348]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Valuation Office Agency: Rightmove

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the timetable is for the awarding of HM Revenue and Customs with contract notice reference 2009/S 200-288191 on providing residential property data for the Valuation Office Agency; what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the contract to HM Revenue and Customs over its lifetime; and whether this contract replaces the existing contract held by Rightmove.co.uk. [308417]

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans the Valuation Office Agency has for the future of its licence with Rightmove.co.uk in relation to council tax valuations. [308689]

Ian Pearson: Any contract(s) awarded in accordance with this notice will replace the now expired Rightmove contract. The estimated value of the contract(s) is between £1 million and £2 million, as shown in the notice. Any contract is likely to be awarded in March 2010, and commence in June 2010.

Valuation Office Agency: Training

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 55W, on the Valuation Office Agency: training, from which division of the Valuation Office Agency the staff came who attended the training on *(a)* assertiveness by the Impact Factory, *(b)* staff inspection techniques by the National School of Government and *(c)* the greenhouse and reporting on health and safety risks in homes by Contract Property Training Limited; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each document provided to staff who attended each training course. [308349]

Ian Pearson: The attendees on the three training courses were as follows:

(a) a member of staff from the London North Group.

(b) a member of the Finance Team.

(c) a member of the National Assets and Building Surveyors' Team.

The copyright for the training materials is owned by the organisations that provided the training therefore the Valuation Office Agency is unable to provide copies of the documents supplied to members of staff who attended these courses.

VAT: Local Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs paid in refunds of value added tax to each local authority in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and for what reasons such refunds were made. [308687]

Mr. Timms: Section 18 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 prevents HM Revenue and Customs from disclosing information relating to the tax affairs of individual taxpayers; this includes public bodies.

Welfare Tax Credits

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research has been undertaken into the number of tax credits claimants who do not renew their claim or subsequently reclaim and who would still be entitled to receive tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [308183]

Mr. Timms: If a family does not renew their tax credit award, by confirming or updating their circumstances, it is not possible to determine whether they are still entitled. Therefore reliable estimates of the number of claimants who would still be entitled to receive tax credits are not available.

HM Revenue and Customs has published research which explores claimants' understanding of the tax credits renewal process. The report is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/report-52-final.pdf

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests have been made to expedite individuals' tax credits claims *(a)* by (i) local authorities, (ii) voluntary agencies, (iii) Jobcentre Plus offices, (iv) hospitals, (v) hon. Members, (vi) local councillors and (vii) claimants and *(b)* in total in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09. [308190]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available as HM Revenue and Customs' systems do not capture the number of requests to expedite individuals' tax credits claims.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest number of tax credits award notices sent to a unique claimant was in the course of (i) one year and (ii) one month in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09. [308194]

Mr. Timms: Award notices are issued at the following points in the tax credits cycle:

An initial award notice, following a successful claim.

An amended award notice when a claimant notifies HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) of a change of circumstances or income during a year.

A finalised award notice following the completion of the renewal process.

Where payments are continuing following a finalised award for one year, an award notice is issued to advise of the provisional payments HMRC will be making for the subsequent year.

Each adult involved in a tax credits claim received an average of between two and three award notices in each of the specified income tax years. This average is derived by dividing the total number of award notices issued each year by a snapshot of the number of adult claimants as in April 2006; April 2007; April 2008 and April 2009.

For information on the number of tax credits award notices issued in 2005-06 and 2006-07 I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey (Danny Alexander) on 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 973W. A total of around 29.9 million award notices were issued in 2007-08 and around 33.2 million award notices were issued in 2008-09.

Information on the highest number of tax credits award notices sent to a unique claimant is only available at disproportionate cost.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit applications are being processed for *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* non-UK EEA nationals, *(c)* A8 EEA nationals, *(d)* A2 EEA nationals and *(e)* non-European nationals. [308205]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) use rapid data capture (RDC) techniques for scanning tax credits claims electronically and capturing the details supplied on the claim on the tax credits computer system. Further information about RDC is published on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ntcmanual/rdc/ntc1101100.htm

All claims are subject to a range of automated checks. Tax credits entitlement is calculated automatically if all checks are passed. HMRC often need to make more detailed inquiries into incomplete claims or those that fail risk checks. HMRC may be unable to process and pay those claims within the usual target times.

HMRC also seek additional information from claimants from other EEA member states, A2 and A8 nationals to verify that eligibility criteria for tax credits are met.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average length of time was between the receipt of an application to his Department for tax credit and the issue of a receipt for the application in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09; and what the average length of time was in respect of applicants in the (i) upper and (ii) lower quartiles in each such year. [309789]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) does not issue receipts for tax credits claims.

For information about HMRC targets and performance outturn in relation to tax credits in 2008-09 and earlier years, I refer the right hon. Member to my recent answer to him on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 179W.

In 2009-10 HMRC aims to clear 60 per cent. of new claims in 15 calendar days.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the number and *(b)* the amount of tax credits overpayments caused by the failure of a claimant to notify the Tax Credits Office of a change of circumstances in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09. [308186]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) systems do not record why an overpayment has been made.

However, information on the number of families with tax credits awards, including information on overpayments at UK level can be found in the HMRC publications, "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments", available at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

JUSTICE

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what plans he has to review the bail accommodation contract with ClearSprings; [308171]

(2) how many complaints have been received about ClearSprings from *(a)* the public, *(b)* probation services and *(c)* local authorities since June 2007. [308172]

Maria Eagle: My right hon. Friend, the then Minister of State for Justice (David Hanson), made a written statement to the House on 13 May 2009, *Official Report*, column 54WS, announcing that the Government intend to re-tender the contract for Bail Accommodation and Support Service (BASS) on the expiry of the current contract on 17 June 2010. A new contract is scheduled to be awarded at the beginning of February 2010.

I am unable to provide information about the number of complaints about ClearSprings as this could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Ministry of Justice has received a substantial volume of correspondence about the BASS and it would require checking each item of correspondence separately at both local and national level to determine whether it was a complaint.

Channel Islands: Electricity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice from what energy sources *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey's electricity demands were met in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [309103]

Mr. Wills: Jersey and Guernsey are self-governing dependencies of the Crown and have their own directly elected legislative assemblies, administrative, fiscal and legal systems. The Ministry of Justice does not keep information on the amount of electricity consumed in the Crown Dependencies or the sources from which it was produced.

Criminal Proceedings: Autism

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which Minister in his Department is responsible for policy to implement proposals in the autism strategy on improving the accessibility of the criminal justice system; and if he will make a statement. [308724]

Claire Ward: The Ministry of Justice will support the implementation of the planned autism strategy, currently being developed by the Department of Health, in the context of the Health and Criminal Justice Delivery Plan. This plan was published on 17 November 2009, and sets out cross departmental action to improve access to health services by offenders and to support staff in prisons, probation and the police through training. The Delivery Plan is available at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationspolicyAndGuidance/DH_108606

Crown Dependencies: National Income

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the gross domestic product per capita is for each of the British Crown Dependencies. [309095]

Mr. Wills: Information on the gross domestic product and the population sizes of the Crown Dependencies is publicly available on their respective Government websites:

Jersey (it should be noted that Jersey measures gross value added, not gross domestic product):

http://www.gov.je/ChiefMinister/International+Relations/Profile+of+Jersey.htm

Guernsey:

http://www.gov.gg/ccm/navigation/about-guernsey/economy/

Isle of Man:

http://www.gov.im/treasury/economic/data/income.xml

Crown Dependencies: Prisons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders currently being held in prisons in each of the Crown Dependencies are serving sentences for drug-related offences. [309085]

Mr. Wills: Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man are not part of the UK; they are self-governing dependencies of the Crown and have their own directly elected legislative assemblies, administrative, fiscal and legal systems.

The prisons in the Crown Dependencies are the responsibility of the Crown Dependency Governments and not of the Ministry of Justice. Accordingly the Ministry of Justice does not hold the information sought.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has plans to expand prison capacity in the Crown Dependencies. [309086]

Mr. Wills: Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man are not part of the UK; they are self-governing dependencies of the Crown and have their own directly elected legislative assemblies, administrative, fiscal and legal systems.

Prisons and prison capacity in the Crown Dependencies are the responsibility of the Crown Dependency Governments and not of the Ministry of Justice.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assistance his Department has provided to rehabilitation programmes for drug addicts serving prison sentences in each of the Crown Dependencies in the last 10 years. [309087]

Mr. Wills: This Department has provided no assistance to rehabilitation programmes for drug addicts serving prison sentences in the Crown Dependencies during the last 10 years. Prisons in the Crown Dependencies are the responsibility of the relevant Island administrations, not the Ministry of Justice.

Dartmoor Prison: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the outcome was of the 2007 scoping study of the number of armed forces veterans who were serving a sentence in HMP Dartmoor. [308607]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) had no oversight of this research at the time it was conducted and have no records of the outcomes of this research. From our communication with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) it appears that the research was conducted by a worker in HMP Dartmoor but on an ad-hoc basis and with no official or central oversight by either MOJ or MOD. Preliminary results which found that 32 of the 191 prisoners (16.75 per cent.) were veterans, were presented at a meeting of the Veterans Prison In-Reach Working Group (VPIR), a group sponsored by the MOD. It is likely that the result was skewed because the wings were largely comprised of older prisoners which meant that they were more likely than other prisoners to have served in the armed forces at some time (including under national service).

Debt Collection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 435W, on debt collection, what representations *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Courts Service have received on collecting debts through credit card payment. [308419]

Bridget Prentice: In considering the extension of credit and debit card facilities to remaining regions within HMCS the opinions of various groups within the debt industry (eg the Citizens Advice Bureau) were sought.

Those consulted expressed some concern that accepting credit card payments for a debt, particularly one which may have arisen from a consumer credit debt, may exacerbate a debtor's difficulties. However, it was widely recognised that the introduction of credit and debit card facilities would be welcomed among the large majority of responsible court users where a debt has arisen from a genuine dispute for a small claim and that not providing these facilities would be denying those debtors a very convenient way to pay their debt.

All courts who have introduced credit and debit card facilities have found them to be extremely useful, allowing them to operate more efficiently. There is high demand from other courts, based on customer feedback, to introduce the facilities on a wider basis.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 435W, on debt collection, what the timetable is for completion of the evaluation of the scheme of taking debt payments by debit and credit card. [308420]

Bridget Prentice: The national roll out of credit and debit card facilities is currently under consideration. The timetable for the introduction of these facilities has not yet been finalised.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 15 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 435W, on debt collection, if he will place in the Library a copy of the evaluation report by HM Courts Service on accepting credit card payments. [308528]

Bridget Prentice: The national roll out of credit and debit card facilities is currently under consideration. The timetable for the introduction of these facilities has not yet been finalised. The evaluation report will be published during the spring.

Departmental Publicity

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Ministerial photoshoots and *(b)* production of videos in which Ministers appear in the last three years for which figures are available. [305521]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has used external photographers on three occasions between its launch in May 2007 and August 2009, at a total cost of £2,197.04. These were for use as corporate images following reshuffles or machinery of Government changes, and portraits were taken of senior MOJ officials as well as the ministerial team. Since August 2009, the Ministry of Justice has had the capability to provide corporate photography in-house at no cost.

MOJ Communications Directorate has in-house video recording facilities and uses these, at no cost, when filming ministers for both internal purposes and for the Ministry's You Tube channel. Information on the filming of our ministers for other purposes is not held centrally, and to obtain that information would incur disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences: Disqualification

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of making driving whilst disqualified an offence triable either way. [308214]

Claire Ward: We have not considered making the offence of driving while disqualified triable either way.

Driving Under Influence: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of drivers convicted of offences of driving when under the influence of alcohol or drugs in Gloucestershire were *(a)* first-time offenders and *(b)* had two or more convictions in each year since 1999. [309137]

Claire Ward: The figures requested are in the following table and cover a range of offences related to driving under the influence of drink or drugs and failing to provide a specimen. The table shows the number of offenders with previous convictions for any of these offences. Figures for 1999 are not available.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer (PNC), which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Number of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs in Gloucestershire, 2000-08

	Number of drivers convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs	*Number of drivers convicted for the first time of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs*	*Number of drivers with at least one previous conviction for this offence*	*Percentage of drivers convicted for the first time*	*Percentage of drivers with at least one previous conviction*
2000	793	652	141	82.2	17.8
2001	862	712	150	82.6	17.4
2002	927	722	205	77.9	22.1
2003	897	720	177	80.3	19.7
2004	939	718	221	76.5	23.5
2005	816	633	183	77.6	22.4
2006	831	634	197	763	23.7
2007	828	624	204	75.4	24.6
2008	797	615	182	77.2	22.8

[1] The data includes a range of offences under the Road Traffic Act: They can be found in sections 4(1), 5(1)(a), 7(6), 4(2), 5(1)(b), 6(4) and 7A as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 and the Transport and Works Act 2002.

Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will undertake an impact assessment in respect of the implementation of proposals to conduct the counting of all votes in the general election on the day after polling. [308327]

Mr. Wills: The decision as to the timing of the count at an election is for the relevant returning officer. Under section 5 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Electoral Commission is required to produce a report on the administration of each general election in the UK. The Government will study the commission's report carefully and respond to any issues that emerge. The Government have no plans to undertake any separate assessment in respect of the conduct of counts at the next UK parliamentary general election.

Gender Identity Disorder: Prisoners

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 283-4W, on gender identity disorder: prisoners, if he will review the non-health aspects of the draft Prison Service Order on gender dysphoria; and what guidance is available to prisons and to prisoners on the treatment of prisoners with gender dysphoria. [307618]

Maria Eagle: As indicated in my hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Health's (Phil Hope) answer on 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 283-84W, on receipt of further advice from colleagues in Offender Health, Ministry of Justice officials will be able to finalise the guidance on the non-health issues within the draft Prison Service Order (PSO) which impacts on the operational aspects of the PSO. While there is currently no formal guidance document available to prisons or to prisoners on the treatment of prisoners with gender dysphoria, the draft guidance is available and policy leads within the Ministry of Justice are in a position to give advice and support when necessary.

Housing: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many properties in England had a capital value of over £2 million according to records held by the Land Registry on the latest date for which information is available. [308732]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry does not hold records of the total number of properties (commercial and/or residential) in England with a current capital value of over £2 million.

However, Land Registry holds price paid data for the total number of registered residential properties which have been sold at full value during defined periods. This question has been answered using the data available, providing details of the total number of registered residential properties sold at full value of over £2 million for the latest available quarter and the total for the year 2009.

The figure for October to December 2009 is 251 and the total in the year January 2009 to December 2009, is 832. This last figure includes in its total one property that was sold twice during 2009.

Full value reflects registered residential property transactions where the full price has been paid. The figures exclude a number of transactions including Right to Buy sales at a discount, properties sold by way of a gift and properties sold under a Compulsory Purchase or Court Order. Not all property in England is registered.

Isle of Man: Health Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has for the termination of the Isle of Man-United Kingdom Reciprocal Health Agreement. [309097]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has no such plans, since reciprocal health agreements are the responsibility of the Department of Health, not the Ministry of Justice. I understand however that Department of Health Ministers have given notice of their intention to terminate the agreement with the Isle of Man with effect from 1 April 2010.

Legal Aid

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much and what proportion of the legal aid budget has been spent on fraud cases in the last five years. [309630]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is not available in the time required. I will write to the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk once the information becomes available.

Political Parties and Elections Act 2009

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 21 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 1388W, on the Political Parties and Elections Bill, what his plans are for the timetable for the commencement of each provision of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009 to be commenced by order. [308314]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement that the Justice Secretary issued on 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 67-68WS.

Prisoners Release

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Harborough of 11 November 2009, *Official Report*, columns 487-88W, on prisoners' release, how many of the 192 prisoners released in error since 2005 remain at large; for how long they have been at large; what estimate he has made of the number of reoffences they have committed after release; and of what nature. [301007]

Maria Eagle: Prison establishments are required to report known releases in error to the intelligence and operations unit in National Offender Management Service headquarters. However, the incident reporting system does not hold records of these events in a format which can be interrogated electronically to obtain the specific information requested.

Since my reply to the hon. and learned Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) on 11 November was compiled, some additional cases have been identified and the total number of releases in error now reported, and the outcomes, is as follows:

	Total releases in error reported to the incident reporting system	*Number of these who have subsequently been back in custody*	*Number of these who have since appeared in court*	*Number for whom there is no record of subsequent contact with the criminal justice system*
2005	43	34	8	1
2006	48	40	4	[1]4
2007	35	31	3	1
2008	58	49	5	4
2009 (to 30 September)	35	28	4	3
Total	219	182	24	[1]13

[1] Includes one former prisoner known to be deceased.

Not all prisoners released in error will be unlawfully at large. For example, they may be released on a valid licence or have been unconvicted prisoners whose cases have now been concluded without a custodial sentence. As the table shows, there are only 12 surviving ex-prisoners who have not been back into the criminal justice system since their release in error. Further inquiries are being made to ensure all appropriate action is being taken to locate them.

Most prisoners released in error are returned to custody quickly. While we are aware of one case in which a prisoner released in error committed a serious offence in 2005, there is otherwise no indication from the available information of any significant level of offending by prisoners who should have been in custody at the time.

Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many armed forces veterans are *(a)* serving a custodial sentence in a prison in England and Wales and *(b)* the subject of (i) a court order and (ii) a parole licence. [308605]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Defence's Defence Analytical Services and Advice has undertaken an exercise to match Ministry of Justice data on prisoners in England and Wales with the MOD database of service leavers to establish the number of armed forces veterans in custody. The analysis indicates that almost 3 per cent. of the prison population in England and Wales were former armed forces personnel.

Data for those supervised by the probation service are not available. We are exploring the feasibility and cost of extending the data matching to encompass this group of offenders.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to identify armed forces veterans who are the subject of *(a)* a court report or *(b)* admission to custody; and whether he plans advice and support packages for such veterans. [308606]

Maria Eagle: Offenders who are the subject of a pre-sentence report and prisoners being inducted into custody are routinely asked for details of their employment history. Prison assessment procedures are being revised to include more specific questions to identify offenders who have served in the armed forces.

A guide for prison officers working with veterans has been developed. This will allow them to provide advice and support as part of their existing offender management work. This material has been informed by some of the existing good practice that has already been developed in a number of prisons where officers are assuming the role of Veterans in Custody Support Officer, to assist veterans with gaining access to the support and specialist help they need. The pack will be distributed to prisons between January and March 2010, accompanied by training for staff and ongoing support for them in its implementation.

Work is in progress to prepare instructions and guidance for probation staff supervising ex-service personnel in the community. Probation staff will be invited to attend the training and networking events that are scheduled for prison staff between January and March 2010.

The Ministry of Defence's Defence Analytical Services and Advice has undertaken an exercise to match Ministry of Justice data on prisoners in England and Wales with the MOD database of service leavers to establish the numbers of armed forces veterans in custody. The analysis indicates that almost 3 per cent. of the prison population in England and Wales were former armed forces personnel.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what studies his Department has conducted since 2000 into the number of armed forces veterans serving a custodial sentence; and what the outcome of each such study was. [308613]

Maria Eagle: Three nationally representative surveys of 2,000 sentenced prisoners near release were conducted by the Home Office in 2001, 2003 and 2004. They were asked about their previous employment in the armed forces. The results showed the proportion of prisoners who had previously served in the armed forces in those years were 6 per cent., 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what procedures the Prison Service has in place to enable foreign nationals in UK prisons to vote by post in overseas elections where they have such a right. [308287]

Maria Eagle: Foreign nationals, including EU citizens, who are eligible to vote in their home state according to that country's domestic law, will be given such reasonable assistance by the National Offender Management Service as is practicable to enable them to exercise their right to vote while in prison, which would principally concern the appropriate handling of postal votes. Currently, any such assistance would be handled at local level and, therefore, figures for the number of foreign national prisoners requesting assistance is not held centrally. However, NOMS are not aware of significant numbers of individuals requesting assistance and it is not anticipated that this assistance would require significant funding. The responsibility remains with the individual both to register to vote, and to vote.

Prisons: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of any overlap between the work of probation officers and the work of drug intervention programme teams. [308217]

Maria Eagle: There is no overlap between the work of probation officers and the drug intervention programme (DIP).

Criminal Justice Integrated Teams (CJITs), which implement DP in the community, manage offenders who misuse specified class A drugs (ie heroin or crack cocaine) either pre-sentence or after they are released from prison without statutory supervision.

Offenders with drug misuse problems who are sentenced to a community order with drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) or who are released from prison on licence are managed by probation staff.

Where an offender who misuses specified class A drugs is sentenced to a community order without DRRs, probation staff work in partnership with CJITs to address their drug misuse needs.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff are employed as part of the Interventions and Substance Misuse Group within the National Offender Management System; and how many were so employed in June 2008. [308219]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the number of staff in post and what this equates to in terms of full-time equivalents for the two months specified.

Interventions and Substance Misuse Group staffing

	June 2008	*December 2009*
Staff in post	143	158
Full-time equivalents	137.46	146.71

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* assessment has been made of the merits and *(b)* estimate has been made of the costs per prisoner of places in dedicated drug treatment prisons. [308220]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service has a comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's revised models of care, to address the different needs of drug-misusers in prison. The interventions available are designed to meet the needs of low, moderate and severe drug misusers, irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity. Core elements of the framework are available in all adult prisons across England and Wales. Higher intensity services are available in selected sites according to the drug treatment needs of offenders.

Given the large numbers entering prisons with a history of drug misuse and the range of problems that they face, we have not considered it appropriate formally to assess the merits of dedicated drug treatment prisons. However, where prisoners are assessed as suitable for high intensity drug interventions such as therapeutic communities or the 12-step programme every effort is made to move them to an establishment offering that programme.

As no formal assessment has taken place, we have not estimated the cost of places in dedicated drug treatment prisons. However, average costs in 2008-09 indicate that the additional cost of places on prison-based accredited drug treatment programmes (eg 12-step, Therapeutic Communities) can range from £1,200 to £7,200. Variations in cost are dependent upon the mix of staff delivering the programme and its length/intensity.

Prisons: Food

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the average cost of providing a meal to a prisoner in the latest period for which figures are available. [308976]

Maria Eagle: The full cost of providing meals includes a number of elements including staff and prisoner labour, food, training (staff and prisoner), kitchen and servery facilities, utilities and other overheads, including management overheads, and it is not possible to fully identify these costs—some of which are shared resources across individual prisons and between prisons.

It is, however, possible to separately identify the cost of food. For 2008-09, the last full financial year for which figures are available, the average public sector Prison Service daily food cost per prisoner in England and Wales was £2.31.

The average food cost per meal per prisoner is based on the understanding that breakfast, lunch and dinner account for approximately 20 per cent., 40 per cent. and 40 per cent. of the daily food cost. Using these figures, the average cost per meal per prisoner was: breakfast 46.2p; lunch 92.4p; and, dinner 92.4p. But these percentages will vary from one establishment to another and are illustrative only.

Prisons: Inspections

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison governors have reported moving prisoners immediately prior to an inspection in the last 12 months. [308170]

Maria Eagle: Governors are not required to report transferring prisoners to other establishments as transfers are a regular and frequent occurrence.

On 20 October 2009, the Secretary of State for Justice, made a statement to the House of Commons asking Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons to work with the Ministry of Justice director of analytical services to investigate whether any temporary transfer of prisoners had occurred before an inspection by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons. The results of this investigation will be made available in due course.

Prisons: Rape

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many rapes were reported in each prison in England and Wales in each year since 2000; [308958]

(2) how many incidents of grievous bodily harm have taken place in prisons in each year since 2000; [308960]

(3) how many incidents of sexual assault have taken place in prisons in each year since 2000. [308961]

Maria Eagle: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not capture data specifically concerning rape in prison. Rather, numbers of all types of sexual assault incidents are recorded and these are provided in Table 2.

NOMS has, for many years, recorded serious assaults using a bespoke definition and does not currently have the ability to capture data using Home Office counting rules definitions, such as grievous bodily harm. NOMS defines a serious assault as any of the following:

It is a sexual assault.

It results in detention in outside hospital as an in-patient.

It requires medical treatment for concussion or internal injuries.

The injury is a fracture, scald or burn, stabbing, crushing, extensive or multiple bruising, black eye, broken nose, lost or broken tooth, cuts requiring suturing, bites or temporary or permanent blindness.

When an assault results in one of these types of injuries it is classified as serious even if the actual damage was superficial.

Numbers of serious assaults recorded by NOMS for the years in question are given in Table 1.

Table 1

	Recorded incidents of serious assault in prisons in England and Wales	*Proportion of all assaults (percentage)*
2000[1]	794	8
2001[1]	796	7
2002	956	8
2003	1,159	10
2004	1,220	10
2005	1,371	10
2006	1,404	9
2007	1,482	10
2008	1,481	9

[1] Due to improved recording over the years, figures from 1998 to 2001 are not directly comparable with those from later years. Numbers may differ slightly from previously published figures.

Note:

The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents.

Data on sexual assaults and other incidents in prison are obtained through the National Offender Management Service's Incident Reporting System. Numbers of sexual assault incidents for the years in question are given in Table 2. The figures include proven and unproven allegations and are subject to change because some allegations are removed or reclassified following investigation.

Table 2

	Recorded incidents of sexual assault in prisons in England and Wales
2000[1]	115
2001[1]	101
2002	143
2003	131
2004	144
2005	139
2006	148
2007	135
2008	119

[1] Due to improved recording over the years, figures from 1998 to 2001 are not directly comparable with those from later years. Numbers may differ slightly from previously published figures.

Note:

The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents.

Since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy. From mid-2007 this policy has been applied to both the public sector and contracted estate. The strategy requires each prison to undertake regular analysis of the problem areas, consider solutions and provide an action plan to improve personal safety and reduce violence. A whole-prison approach is encouraged, engaging all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and personal safety. This includes environmental and physical measures, as well as alternative ways of managing behaviour.

Prisons: Religion

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria the Prison Service uses to determine whether to recognise a religion for the purposes of facilitating religious ministry in prison. [308703]

Maria Eagle: The Prison Service does not have specified criteria for determining whether to recognise a religion for the purposes of facilitating religious ministry in prisons. Cases would be considered on their merits taking into account security, good order and discipline as well as the needs and rights of the individual prisoner.

All prisons have chaplaincy teams to enable and facilitate religious and pastoral support to prisoners.

Prisons: Smuggling

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison staff were charged with disciplinary or criminal offences involving *(a)* importation of drugs, *(b)* importation of mobile telephones and *(c)* importation of other contraband to a prison in the most recent year for which figures are available. [308169]

Maria Eagle: According to centrally held records[1] in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), 10 staff were subject to formal disciplinary action for the conveying of prohibited items into prisons in the period 1 December 2008 through 30 November 2009. A breakdown of these cases is provided in the following table:

NOMS staff disciplined for conveying prohibited items into prisons

Description	*Number of staff disciplined*
Drugs	2
Mobile phones	3
Other contraband	5
Total	10

Tackling the supply of drugs and mobile phones into prisons is a high priority for NOMS. Since David Blakey's report, "Disrupting the Supply of Illicit Drugs into Prisons", was published in July 2008 good progress has been made in implementing Blakey's recommendations. We have also strengthened the law, through the Offender Management Act 2007 (implemented in April 2008), which makes it a criminal offence with a punishment of up to ten years' imprisonment for the conveyance of drugs, mobile phones or other prohibited items into a prison. There is also a range of offences used to prosecute staff in these circumstances, including misconduct in public office and possession with intent to supply.

The National Offender Management Service does not, though, record detailed information relating to charges or convictions for criminal offences in the form requested.

From April 2009 convictions under the Act have been included in the Home Office Counting Rules, which provide a national standard for the recording and counting of notifiable offences recorded by police forces in England and Wales (known as "recorded crime"). Statistics will be published in next year's Annual Crime Statistics Bulletin due to be published July 2010, and will provide a more accurate picture of the use of the Act.

[1] The data contained in the above table was extracted from the central Discipline Database and the Personnel Management Database, both of which are subject to the normal inaccuracies associated with any large scale reporting system. Any cases which are still ongoing, or subject to internal appeal, have not been included.

Remand in Custody

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in each age group who were remanded in custody in each year since 1997 were not convicted of the offence for which they were remanded in custody; and how much time was spent on remand by such people. [308778]

Maria Eagle: Information collected by the Ministry of Justice and held centrally on the court proceedings database only records details of the final outcome of court proceedings, e.g. following conviction or acquittal. Therefore it is not possible to provide information on the original offence for which a defendant was proceeded against.

Review of the 30-year Rule

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish the Government's response to the review of the 30 year rule submitted to his Department in January 2009. [309949]

Mr. Wills: The Government are finalising their response to the review of the 30-year rule and this will be published in due course.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library an unredacted copy of the physical control in care restraint manual used in secure training centres. [308382]

Maria Eagle: A copy of the redacted manual has been placed in the House Library. The redaction is necessary in order to remove sensitive security information, misuse of which could lead to injury to a young person in custody, to a member of staff, or to a member of the public attempting one of the holds or on whom a hold was attempted.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what data his Department collect on youth reoffending at middle layer super output area level; and where such data are published. [309516]

Claire Ward: The published National Statistics on juvenile reoffending in England and Wales are not broken down by area. As part of the National Indicator Set, NI19—Juvenile Reoffending provides these data at the local level, but data are only available at the Youth Offender Team level. Youth Offender Team areas are not coterminous with local authorities in all cases—tables including this information have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Breaking the data down to smaller areas would be likely to result in figures which were too small to be meaningful.

Juvenile reoffending data at the Youth Offender Team level is available for 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2008. For 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 data are based on a cohort of offenders that received a pre-court disposal (reprimand or final warning) or a first-tier or community penalty or were released from custody between October and December of that year. Data on this previous measure for the 2002-2005 cohorts were reported in early 2004-2007 respectively. After 2007 the basis of the measure changed to offenders that received a pre-court disposal (reprimand or final warning) or a first-tier or community penalty or were released from custody between January and March. Data on this new basis are available for the 2005 and 2008 cohorts—the former submitted retrospectively in September 2008, and the latter returned in July 2009.

The local juvenile reoffending measure differs from the published national statistics on juvenile reoffending. The primary difference is that the data source is administrative data held by youth offending teams, whereas the national statistics are produced using the police national computer. There are therefore differences in the offences which count towards reoffending. In addition to this, local juvenile reoffending data is based on a one year follow up period with a further three months allowed for any cautions or convictions to occur, whereas the national statistics allow a six month period for cautions or convictions.

Youth Custody

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours each day young offenders spent locked in a cell at each *(a)* secure children's home, *(b)* secure training centre and *(c)* young offender institution on average in the latest period for which figures are available. [308820]

Maria Eagle: The following tables provide the average number of hours per day which young people in custody spent in their rooms during September 2009.

The data have been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

(a) Secure children's homes	*Time in room (hours)*
Aldine House	10.5
Atkinson Unit	10.1
Aycliffe	11.0
Barton Moss	10.9
Clayfields	11.3
East Moor	11.1
Hillside	9.5
Kyloe	11.5
Lincolnshire	11.0
Red Bank	10.3
Swanwick Lodge	11.0
Vinney Green	10.2

(b) Secure training centres	*Time in room (hours)*
Oakhill	10.0
Medway	10.4
Rainsbrook	10.0
Hassockfield	10.1

(c) Young offender institutions	*Time in room (hours)*
Ashfield	13.9
Brinsford	15.6
Castington	15.2
Cookham Wood	15.2
Downview	14.2
Eastwood Park	11.8
Feltham	16.0
Foston Hall	12.0
Hindley	15.4
Huntercombe	15.6
New Hall	12.8
Parc	15.2
Stoke Heath	16.3
Warren Hill	15.1
Werrington	15.3
Wetherby	15.5
Wetherby (Keppel Unit)	13.9

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprentices there were in the *(a)* construction, *(b)* administration and human resources, *(c)* agricultural and land based services, *(d)* broadcast film and media, *(e)* chemical, oil and nuclear energy, *(f)* customer service and retail; *(g)* energy and utilities, *(h)* electrical and engineering, *(i)* financial services, *(j)* food and drink, *(k)* hair and beauty, *(l)* logistics, *(m)* hospitality and travel, *(n)* marine, *(o)* property, *(p)* public services, *(q)* sports and fitness and *(r)* chemical, oil and nuclear sector in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [303308]

Kevin Brennan: Information is not available to identify the total number of apprentices by sector as listed above.

Table 1 as follows shows apprenticeship starts for 2007/08 and 2008/09 (based on provisional data) by sector subject area.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts by sector subject area

Sector subject area	*2007/08*	*2008/09*[1]
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	4,500	5,100
Arts, Media and Publishing	100	200
Business, Administration and Law	50,700	62,700

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts by sector subject area

Sector subject area	*2007/08*	*2008/09*[1]
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	27,800	27,900
Education and Training	300	1,200
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	43,100	36,000
Health, Public Services and Care	31,100	34,200
Information and Communication Technology	8,000	8,700
Languages, Literature and Culture	[2]—	[2]—
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	6,300	11,100
Preparation for Life and Work	[2]—	[2]—
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	49,300	46,800
Science and Mathematics	[2]—	[2]—
Unknown	3,500	[2]—
Grand Total	224,800	234,000

[1] Provisional.

[2] Indicates a base value of less than fifty.

Notes:

1. The following data sources have been used; Work-based learning (WBL)—2007/08 and earlier years (W13 final), 2008/09 (E12 07/08/09).
2. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. Unlike participation figures, figures are comparable between 2008/09 and earlier years as demand led funding does not affect starts.
4. Apprenticeship starts for 2008/09 are provisional. Starts will rise by approximately 2-3 per cent.. This revised information will be shown in the December 2009 SFR, and the accompanying supplementary tables.
5. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of starts at any point during the year. Learners starting more than one framework will appear more than once.
6. Higher level apprenticeships are included with advanced apprenticeships. Programme-led apprenticeships recorded in WBL ILR returns are included in the above figures.

More detailed data are also available by apprenticeship sector framework code and by region. This was published in supplementary tables S6.1 and S6.2 of the Statistical First Release published in October. This information can be found here:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfroct09/sfr_oct_2009_table_6.htm

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people withdrew from apprenticeship schemes before completing them in each quarter of the last five years. [304161]

Kevin Brennan: The number of people starting and successfully completing an apprenticeship is at a record level, with 127,000 (provisional) completing in 2008/09 compared to 112,000 in 2007/08. Completion rates reached an all time high of 64 per cent. in 2007/08 compared to 37 per cent. in 2004/05. Table 1 shows the number of people that left an apprenticeship programme without achieving, by quarter, for 2003/04 to 2007/08, the latest year for which we have complete data.

Table 1: Apprenticeship withdrawals by quarter

					Number
	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Quarter 1	30,900	22,400	20,300	16,200	15,800
Quarter 2	27,600	20,200	17,800	14,000	13,500
Quarter 3	28,600	19,000	17,100	13,500	14,600
Quarter 4	27,300	20,300	18,000	13,200	14,500
Unknown	5,700	9,000	4,800	4,300	3,900
Total	120,100	90,900	78,000	61,100	62,300

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred, and therefore may not sum to totals. 2. Quarter 1: 1 August to 31 October Quarter 2: 1 November to 31 January

Quarter 3: 1 February to 30 April

Quarter 4: 1 May to 31 July. 3. Figures for 2003/04 are not directly comparable to later years due to a change in the variable used to record the status of the learner. 4. Withdrawals include both those learners that left the course prior to the end date, and those learners that attended the full duration of the course but did not achieve a qualification. *Source:* WBL ILR.

Apprentices: Marketing

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent from the public purse on the *(a)* creation and *(b)* screening of television advertisements for apprenticeships in each of the last three years. [307780]

Kevin Brennan: There has been one television advertising campaign for apprenticeships in England in the last three years. The campaign in February and March 2009 cost £361,154 to create and £2,764,557 to screen.

Apprentices: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many apprenticeship starts there were in Nottingham, North constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008-09. [309018]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Supplementary table 6.1 shows apprenticeship starts by region, local authority and parliamentary constituency from 2003/04, the earliest year for which we have comparable data.

Apprentices: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many modern apprenticeships have been started in Preston since 1997. [308655]

Kevin Brennan: Information on the number of apprenticeship starts is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 17 December:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrdec09

Supplementary table 6.1 shows apprenticeship starts by region, local authority and parliamentary constituency from 2003/04, the earliest year for which we have comparable data.

Capita

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by his Department and its predecessors in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department and its predecessors paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all current contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303150]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that BIS and its predecessor element DTI/BERR paid the following to Capita Group companies in each of the last five years.

Supplier	*Total spend (£)*
FY 2004/05	
Capita	46,346.79
Capita Business Services Ltd.	551,145.61
Capita Insurance Services	1,220,000.87
Capita Insurance Services Group Ltd.	66,793,490.14
Capita interim management business services Ltd.	3,270.00
Capita RAS Ltd.	8,500.00
Two Ten Communications Ltd. (Capita Communications)	25.00
FY05/06	
Capita	78,424.55
Capita Business Services Ltd.	5,650.00
Capita Health Solutions	411,647.03
Capita Resourcing	16,903.00
Capita Symonds Ltd.	4,126.75
Capita Insurance Services	28,304,682.86
Capita Insurance Services Group Ltd.	48,072,508.27
Capita Learning and Development	1,620.75
FY 2006/07	
Capita	716,539.58
Capita Business Services Ltd.	37,231,189.40
Capita Hartshead	25,575.58
Capita Health Solutions Ltd.	281,676.44
Capita Resourcing Ltd.	314,737.93
Capita Symonds Ltd.	1,113.05
Capita Centres UK Ltd.	190.00
Capita Insurance Services	30,907,287.15
Capita Insurance Services Group Ltd.	127,250.00
Capita Learning and Development	1,379.63
Two Ten Communications Ltd. (Capita Communications)	2,002.17
FY 2007/08	
Capita	885,008.14
Capita Business Services Ltd.	45,897,209.30
Capita Fulfilment Services	32.35
Capita Hartshead	9,682.37
Capita Health Solutions Ltd.	2,094,132.53
Capita Resourcing Ltd.	616,010.72
Capita Resourcing Ltd. t/a Veredus Interim Management	185,885.48
Capita Symonds Ltd.	485.10
Capita Learning and Development	895.00
Two Ten Communications Ltd. (Capita Communications)	15.27
FY 2008/09	
Capita	1,014,817.39
Capita Business Services Ltd.	25,187,877.83
Capita Health Solutions Ltd.	138,710.36
Capita Resourcing Ltd.	154,562.75
Capita Symonds Ltd.	2,166.16

DCSF has advised similar figures relating to the former DIUS element of BIS could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The other details that have been requested could also be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Capital Investment: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much capital funding his Department and its predecessors have allocated to *(a)* York College, *(b)* the University of York and *(c)* the University of York St John in each year since 1992. [307318]

Kevin Brennan: Total capital funding by this Department for the named institutions are as follows:

(a) York further education and higher education college

	£
2001/02	28,052
2004/05	162,900
2005/06	21,159,347

(b) and (c) University of York and university of York St. John

		£
	University of York	*University of York St. John*
2000-01	246,009	171,396
2001-02	5,970,839	0
2002-03	5,618,921	2,206,823
2003-04	10,508,383	480,369
2004-05	10,254,589	3,371,602
2005-06	8,649,369	280,000
2006-07	3,527,349	3,101,758
2007-08	16,182,678	939,152
2008-09	31,442,103	1,308,627
2009-10	26,823,315	1,250,615

Crossrail: Training

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions his Department has had with Crossrail Limited on its skills requirements for employees. [308501]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is working with Crossrail to agree a Skills and Employment Plan for the project from 2010 and is a member of the Crossrail Skills and Employment Committee. The LSC's response to Crossrail's skills needs closely reflects the work and planning undertaken with the Olympic Delivery Authority for the 2012 games and includes work to ensure careers advisors are aware of the types of jobs that may be created by the Crossrail project including around 400 new apprenticeship opportunities.

The Skills Funding Agency, which replaces the LSC in April 2010, will continue to work with Crossrail on its skills requirements for employees.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has spent money on art works in the last 12 months. [308581]

Mr. McFadden: Works of art displayed in this Department are from the Government Art Collection (GAC), which publishes an annual list of acquisitions. The most recent details of acquisitions made by the GAC were published on 5 October 2009 and are available on the GAC website:

http://www.gac.culture.gov.uk/information/publications.asp

Departmental Pay

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what bonuses were paid to *(a)* consultants and *(b)* contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department and its predecessors were responsible in each of the last three years. [306461]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow, East (John Mason) on 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 295W.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many telephone lines with the prefix *(a)* 0870, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0800 his Department (i) operates and (ii) sponsors; how many calls each number received in the last 12 months; and whether alternative numbers charged at the BT local rate are available in each case. [305207]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is as follows:

(i) Information is available centrally on eight "08" telephone lines operated by the Department. These are listed in the table with the number of calls received by each line where that information is held and the alternative contact numbers where available.

Telephone number	*Number of calls January to December 2009*	*Alternative number*	*Notes*
0845 015 0010	15,626	n/a	
0845 015 0020	637	n/a	
0845 015 0030	175	n/a	
0845 019 0001	1,393	n/a	
0845 600 0678	[1]16,867	n/a	No longer published. Since June 2009 calls to this number have been rerouted to the new Pay and Work Rights helpline.
0845 600 9006	180,000	n/a	
0845 955 5105	[2]—		No longer published. Since June 2009 calls to this number have been rerouted to the new Pay and Work Rights helpline.
0870 513 4486	[2]—	020 7215 6880	

n/a = not available

[1] January to May 2009

[2] Not held

(ii) The only information available from central records on BIS sponsored "08" telephone lines is for 0800 917 2368, the new Pay and Work Rights helpline. Between May and December 2009 the helpline has received 54,000 calls. There is no alternative contact number for this service.

Energy

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what support his Department is providing to encourage micro combined heat and power generation in 2009-10. [306945]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

While the Low Carbon Buildings programme is in theory open to microCHP, the lack of accredited products means the Government do not currently provide support for microCHP. We are considering support options for microCHP in the context of the feed-in tariffs consultation

http://decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/elec_financial/elec_financial.aspx

The Government are developing a new Microgeneration Strategy that will look at the non financial barriers to deployment of household-scale low carbon and renewable technologies including micro CHP systems. We are due to consult on the Microgeneration Strategy by the summer of 2010. This strategy should usefully consider supply chain issues in relation to the range of small scale on-site low carbon and renewable energy technologies, for example, the development of skills in design and installation of such technologies. In addition, it may also consider other areas such as developing a systems approach as opposed to a technology approach for microgeneration technologies, certification and standards and information provision. This strategy should benefit a range of different technologies, including micro CHP.

Through the Carbon Trust the Government have funded the microCHP accelerator field trial, details of which are available at

http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/emerging-technologies/current-focus-areas/pages/micro-combined-heat-power.aspx

Through the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) we recently held a £7.2 million call for proposals for capital investment to support demonstration programmes. This included fuel cell micro CHP demonstration. More information is available from

http://www.innovateuk.org/deliveringinnovation/forthcoming
competitions/
fuelcellsandhydrogendemonstrationprogramme.ashx

Graduates: Work Experience

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many vacancies have been *(a)* advertised and *(b)* filled via the Graduate Talent Pool website in each month since it was created. [307759]

Mr. Lammy: The total number of vacancies advertised on Graduate Talent Pool since it went live on 29 July is 12,090, of which, 6,578 are still live on the site. The other 5,512 will have either been filled or withdrawn.

The number of vacancies advertised by month is as follows:

	Number
June	119
July	3,425
August	1,547
September	2,729
October	2,241
November	1,704
December	325

Information on filled vacancies is derived from periodic surveys of employers. We have information from the first such survey covering vacancies that closed during July and August, before the communications targeted at graduates began. This indicated that 30 per cent. of employers had filled some or all of their vacancies at that stage and that recruitment was continuing in a number of other cases.

Grocery Trade: Competition

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) whether he has made an assessment of the potential effects of implementation of the Competition Commission's proposals for a grocery supply ombudsman on *(a)* grocery prices and *(b)* affordability of goods in supermarkets; [309303]

(2) what regulatory impact assessment he has made of implementation of the Competition Commission's proposals for a grocery supply ombudsman; [309307]

(3) whether he has made an estimate of the cost of implementing the Competition Commission's proposal for a grocery supply ombudsman. [309308]

Kevin Brennan: An impact assessment will be produced and published alongside any future consultation on the Competition Commission's (CC's) proposals for a groceries supply code of practice (GSCOP) ombudsman. The assessment will consider and take into account the effects of the CC's proposals and include the costs and benefits of the implementing the proposal, grocery prices and the affordability of goods in supermarkets.

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his officials have had on the merits of the Competition Commission's proposal for a grocery supply ombudsman (i) between April 2008 and 3 August 2009, (ii) between 4 August 2009 and 1 November 2009 and (iii) since 2 November 2009. [309304]

Kevin Brennan: BIS Ministers and officials regularly meet with a range of stakeholders to discuss a wide range of issues including the Competition Commission's (CC's) groceries market recommendations such as the grocery ombudsman as part of the process of policy development. Other topics such as skills, employment and other business issues will have been covered as part of a wider agenda. The following meetings (where records are available) were held during the specified periods:

(i) Meetings held between April 2008 and 3 August 2009:

22 May 2008—Meeting with Sainsbury's—attended by David Saunders (the then Director for Consumer and Competition Policy, BIS) and other BIS officials.

6 June 2008—Meeting with Tesco—attended by BIS officials.

11 June 2008—Meeting with Sainsbury's—attended by BIS officials.

12 June 2008—Meeting with Asda—attended by David Saunders (the then Director for Consumer and Competition Policy) and other BIS officials.

26 June 2008—Meeting with Sainsbury's—attended by Gareth Thomas MP (the then BIS Competition Minister) and another BIS official.

17 July 2008—Meeting with Traidcraft—attended by Gareth Thomas MP (the then BIS Competition Minister) and a BIS official.

31 October 2008—Meeting with Tesco—attended by Geoffrey Norris (Special Advisor to BIS Secretary of State).

10 December 2008—Meeting with Traidcraft and members of the Cross Cutting Group—attended by BIS officials.

11 January 2009—Meeting with Association of Convenience Stores—attended by Ian Pearson, Minister.

11 February 2009—Meeting with Waitrose—attended by BIS officials.

18 February 2009—Meeting with National Farmer's Union—attended by Sir Brian Bender (the then BIS Permanent Secretary) and a BIS official.

19 February 2009—Meeting with Sainsbury's—attended by Sarah Chambers (Director for Consumer and Competition Policy, BIS) and another BIS official.

19 March 2009—Meeting with Tesco—attended by Gareth Thomas MP (the then BIS Competition Minister) and other BIS officials.

26 March 2009—Meeting with Tesco—attended by BIS officials.

31 March 2009—Meeting with Association of Convenience Stores—attended by Gareth Thomas MP (the then BIS Competition Minister) and BIS officials.

17 July 2009—Meeting with Tesco—attended by a BIS official.

(ii) Meetings held between 4 August 2009 and 1 November 2009:

12 August 2009—Meeting with Asda—attended by Sarah Chambers (Director for Consumer and Competition Policy, BIS) and another BIS official.

13 August 2009—Meeting with Groceries Market Action Group members: National Farmers Union, British Brands Group, Traidcraft, and Association of Convenient Stores—attended by Sarah Chambers (Director for Consumer and Competition Policy, BIS) and another BIS official

9 September 2009—Meeting with British Retail Consortium—attended by a BIS official.

15 September 2009—Meeting with Tesco—attended by Lord Mandelson (BIS Secretary of State) and a BIS official.

13 October 2009—Meeting with ActionAid—attended by Geoffrey Norris (Special Advisor to BIS Secretary of State).

15 October 2009—Meeting with Waitrose—attended by BIS officials.

(iii) Meetings held since 2 November 2009:

2 November 2009—Meeting with British Retail Consortium—attended by Simon Fraser (BIS Permanent Secretary) and a BIS official.

3 November 2009—Meeting with Groceries Market Action Group including: ActionAid, National Farmers Union and Association of Convenience Stores—attended by Kevin Brennan MP (BIS Competition Minister).

3 November 2009—Meeting with representatives from ActionAid, National Farmers Union, and Association of Convenience Stores—attended by Kevin Brennan MP (BIS Competition Minister).

4 November 2009—Meeting with Morrisons—attended by Ian Lucas MP (BIS Minister for Business and Regulatory Reform) and a BIS official.

17 November 2009—Meeeting with Sainsbury's attended by a BIS Official.

23 Novermber 2009—Meeting with the British Retail Consortium and also attendees from the Co-operative Group, Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Iceland—attended by Kevin Brennan MP (BIS Competition Minister) and a BIS Official.

26 November 2009—Meeting with National Farmers Union—attended by Kevin Brennan MP (BIS Competition Minister) and a BIS official.

1 December 2009—Meeting with Food and Drink Federation—attended by Kevin Brennan MP (BIS Competition Minister) and a BIS official.

2 December 2009—Meeting with Consumer Focus—attended by Kevin Brennan MP (BIS Competition Minister) and a BIS official.

8 December 2009—Association of Convenience Stores, plus NISA, Today's and SPAR—attended by, Ian Lucas (BIS Minister for Business and Regulatory Reform) and a BIS official.

16 December 2009—Meeting with Divine Chocolate and Traidcraft—attended by Kevin Brennan MP (BIS Competition Minister) and a BIS official.

16 December 2009—Meeting with Tesco—attended by a BIS official.

21 December 2009—Meeting with British Brands Group—attended by a BIS official.

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what evidence his Department holds on potential effects of implementation of the Competition Commission's proposals for a grocery supply ombudsman on *(a)* consumer prices, *(b)* consumer interests, *(c)* consumer choice, *(d)* viability of grocery suppliers, *(e)* liability of farmers and food growers, *(f)* economic sustainability of developing world suppliers and *(g)* product innovation. [309360]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has received a large number of representations including the above issues as part of the evidence gathered on potential effects of the Competition Commission's proposals for a grocery supply ombudsman.

Those representations, along with the Commission's careful analysis, will be taken into account when we reach our decision shortly.

Higher Education: Admissions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what percentage of white *(a)* boys and *(b)* girls eligible for free school meals in their last year at school obtained a place at (i) university and (ii) a Russell Group university in (A) 1980 and (B) the most recent year for which figures are available. [310106]

Mr. Lammy: The following figures show pupils who were in English maintained schools and aged 15 at the start of academic years 2002/03 who progressed to HE by the age of 19 in 2006/07. 2005/06 is the earliest year for which these figures are available.

These figures have been estimated using matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record. Figures for 2007/08 will be available in later in the year.

Estimates of the number and proportion of white female and male pupils aged 15 at the start of the 2002/03 academic year, in English maintained schools, who progressed to HE by the age of 19 in 2006/07

	Young persons in UK HE[1]				of which Russell Group HEIs			
	FSM[2]		Non-FSM[2]		FSM		Non-FSM	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
White females	2,600	10	71,000	35	200	1	14,200	7
White males	1,800	7	56,800	27	200	1	11,700	6

[1] Includes HE level courses at English further education colleges.

[2] FSM and non-FSM indicate receipt and non-receipt of free school meals respectively.

Note:

In 2002/03 there were 81,100 maintained school pupils aged 15 claiming free school meals. This represents around 14 per cent. of all pupils in English maintained schools.

Source:

Matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Learning and Skills Council Individualised Learner Record. All figures are estimates and numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Higher Education: Overseas Students

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many non-EU overseas students discontinued an undergraduate or postgraduate course at a higher education institution in each of the last five academic years. [309804]

Mr. Lammy: The numbers of non-EU overseas undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled at UK higher education institutions are provided in the table. Figures in the table indicate for what reason a student left an institution as recorded on the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

Where information has been classified as missing the majority of instances are for students who continued into their next year of study at their higher education institution.

Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available on 14 January 2010.

Non-EU overseas undergraduate and postgraduate enrolments[1] *by reason for leaving institution, UK higher education institutions, academic years 2003/04 to 2007/08*

	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08	
Reason for leaving	*UG*	*PG*	*UG*	*PG*	*UG*	*PG*	*UG*	*PG*	*UG*	*PG*
Completion of course	25,865	17,030	26,405	18,620	29,100	21,020	31,975	23,310	31,805	25,675
Other[2]	4,125	3,140	5,190	3,440	4,790	3,280	4,765	3,560	5,630	3,710
Unknown	250	165	300	240	220	180	180	160	170	115
Missing	65,020	81,655	66,415	82,515	65,100	83,365	65,980	90,645	66,845	95,695
Total	95,260	101,990	98,310	104,815	99,210	107,845	102,900	117,675	104,445	125,200

[1] Covers enrolments to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Other includes students who left an institution due to academic failure or left in bad standing; left due to health or financial reasons; left due to other personal reasons and dropped out; left due to other reasons; were excluded, went in to employment or were written off after a lapse of time.

Notes:

1. Figures are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population and have been rounded to the nearest five.
2. UG = Undergraduate
3. PG = Postgraduate.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies have spent on fees of third party agents in relation to booking hotel accommodation in each such year. [309232]

Mr. McFadden: Following a machinery of government change the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was formed in June 2009. The following figures relate to the Departments before the merger.

The number of hotel room nights booked by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform was:

2007/08: 10,104

2008/09: 11,258.

The number of hotel room nights booked by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was:

June 2007 to March 2008: 1,455

200809: 2,497.

All expenditure incurred is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Hotel accommodation is provided through a cross-Government hotel booking agent, contracts awarded by Buying Solutions. Records of fees paid are not centrally recorded and to provide this information would entail disproportionate cost.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service, Companies House, the National Measurement Office and the Intellectual Property Office and they will respond to you directly.

Letter from Peter Mason, dated 21 December 2009:

I am responding in respect of the National Measurement Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled, on 16 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Information on the number of hotel room nights that have been booked by officials is not held centrally and to do so would incur disproportionate costs. The National Measurement Office has not spent any monies on fees of third party agents in relation to booking hotel accommodation since 2007.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 8 January 2010:

I am replying on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled 16 December 2009, UIN 309232, to the Minister of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Since 2007 Companies House has not paid any fees to third party agents in relation to booking hotel accommodation. Details of the number of hotel room nights booked by officials are not recorded.

Letter from Sean Dennehey, dated 21 December 2009:

I am responding in respect of the Intellectual Property Office to your Parliamentary Question tabled 16 December 2009, to the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Intellectual Property Office staff book hotel rooms individually within guidelines, as such the information on number of nights is not held centrally and is not available in the current timescales. The Office does use an approved third party to arrange some accommodation but no fees are paid for the service.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 21 December 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has asked me to reply to your question, how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in (a) his Department and (b) its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies have spent on fees of third party agents in relation to booking hotel accommodation in each such year.

The Insolvency Service uses Hotelsmart as a booking agent.

The numbers of rooms booked were:

2007: 4,907

2008: 6,432

2009 to 16 December 2009: 5,768.

There are no fees paid to Hotelsmart.

Insolvency

Natascha Engel: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many pyramid-selling schemes have been wound up by his Department after the presentation of petitions under the Insolvency Act 1986 in each year since 1997. [309484]

Ian Lucas: Unfortunately the records maintained do not contain sufficient detail to provide this information. But I can assure my hon. Friend that the Department continues to treat abuses which occur in pyramid-selling schemes and other similar schemes very seriously, and will continue to petition to wind up those which are trading against the public interest.

Natascha Engel: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many money circulation schemes have been wound up by his Department after the presentation of petitions under the Insolvency Act 1986 in each year since 1997. [309485]

Ian Lucas: Unfortunately the records maintained do not contain sufficient detail to provide this information. But I can assure my hon. Friend that the Department continues to treat abuses such as money circulation schemes and other similar schemes very seriously, and will continue to petition to wind up those which are trading against the public interest.

Leeds University: Research

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much research funding has been allocated to Leeds university in each year since 1997. [309383]

Mr. Lammy: The university of Leeds has received the following quality related funding for research allocated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England:

Time series of HEFCE research funding (£ million) for the university of Leeds for academic years 1997-98 to 2009-10: Prepared by HEFCE Analytical Services Group on 5 January 2010 Figures are in cash terms, and include late grant adjustments

	University of Leeds (£ million)
1997-98	26.99
1998-99	27.42
1999-2000	27.84
2000-01	27.83
2001-02	28.52
2002-03	30.97
2003-04	35.22
2004-05	36.32
2005-06	42.49
2006-07	46.01
2007-10	47.24
2008-09	48.83
2009-10	49.50

Higher Education Statistics Agency data show that the university of Leeds received the following income from Research Councils (2008-09 data are not yet available):

Research Council grants

	£ million
1997-98	14.37
1998-99	16.44
1999-2000	18.79
2000-01	21.02
2001-02	24.96
2002-03	24.62
2003-04	23.01
2004-05	25.59
2005-06	27.44
2006-07	31.80
2007-08	39.23

Qualifications: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many adults in the London borough of Bexley completed a level 3 qualification in the last five years for which figures are available. [308500]

Kevin Brennan: Table 1 shows the number of publicly funded adults achieving a Full level 3 qualification in 2004/05 to 2007/08, the latest year for which we have final information and also for 2008/09 which is not directly comparable given it is estimated on a slightly different basis and is also provisional.

Table 1: Publicly funded full level 3 achievements by adults (aged 19+), 2004/05 to 2008/09 in the London borough of Bexley

Academic year	*Number of achievements*
2004/05	250
2005/06	370
2006/07	440
2007/08	500
2008/09[1] (provisional)	700

[1] Figures for 2008/09 are not directly comparable to earlier years as the introduction of demand led funding has changed how data is collected and how funded learners are defined from 2008/09 onwards. More information on demand led funding is available at:
http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/funding-policy/demand-led-funding.htm

Notes:

1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Age is based on age as at 31 August of the academic year (academic age).
3. Local authority is based on home postcode of the learner.
4. These data include provision delivered in FE organisations, sixth form colleges, independent training organisations, local authorities and other providers. This includes programmes such as apprenticeships and Train to Gain. Data regarding school sixth forms is not included in this publication.

Source:
Individualised Learner Record.

Sector Skills Councils

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made on the relicensing of sector skills councils; and if he will make a statement. [308450]

Kevin Brennan: Good progress is being made with the relicensing of sector skills councils. The assessment and relicensing process for sector skills councils formally opened in July 2008 with the launch of the Prospectus, 'Empowering SSCs—Employer driven skills reform across the UK'. By the end of 2009 18 SSCs had successfully met the performance standard. In the case of Skillfast-UK, the SSC for the fashion and textile sector, Government decided to uphold the UK Commission's recommendation not to issue a new license. Instead, the intention is for the coverage of this sector to come within the scope of another SSC. The UK Commission expect to make further recommendations to Government early in 2010 in relation to the remaining SSCs.

Sector Skills Councils: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding has been allocated to each sector skills council in each of the last five years. [308791]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills provide grant in aid funding to the UK Commission for Employment and Skills to contract with sector skills councils for work on areas such as national occupational standards and labour market information. The funding provided to each sector skills council by the UK Commission, and its predecessor the Sector Skills Development Agency, in the last five years is given as follows.

Most sector skills councils also receive other funding from a range of sources, including other Government Departments.

£000

Sector Skills Councils	*2008/09*	*2007/08*	*2006/07*	*2005/06*	*2004/05*
Asset Skills	3,624	4,537	2,365	2,131	1,789
Automotive Skills (IMI)	2,875	3,079	1,966	1,690	2,225
Cogent	2,545	2,499	1,938	1,922	2,080
ConstructionSkills	3,801	4,490	2,972	1,908	3,166
Creative and Cultural Skills	2,947	1,782	2,631	2,193	879
Energy and Utility Skills	2,598	3,211	2,415	1,879	1,782
e-skills UK	3,331	5,039	6,774	5,858	5,594
Financial Services Skills Council	3,755	3,199	1,928	2,033	2,079
GoSkills	3,151	2,373	2,280	2,058	1,827
Government Skills	1,737	2,537	1,802	301	49
Improve Ltd.	2,607	2,229	2,688	2,021	2,538
Lantra	3,653	4,413	2,272	1,847	2,569
Lifelong Learning UK	2,511	1,875	1,954	2,163	1,533
People 1st	3,613	2,790	1,781	1,910	2,422
Proskills UK	2,828	2,575	2,376	2,195	307
Semta	3,610	3,614	3,659	2,198	2,937
Skillfast-UK	2,851	3,487	2,295	2,048	2,208
Skills for Care and Development	2,079	1,444	2,035	1,653	569
Skills for Health	2,799	2,993	2,646	2,342	1,809
Skills for Justice	4,253	3,283	1,714	1,878	2,245
Skills for Logistics	2,438	1,940	2,352	2,127	1,519
SkillsActive	3,314	3,626	2,596	2,270	1,876
Skillset	3,665	3,807	4,243	2,199	3,071
Skillsmart Retail	3,013	2,891	2,553	2,151	2,640
SummitSkills	2,127	2,648	1,760	1,608	1,981

Students: Grants

Ms Buck: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students were in receipt of education maintenance grants in each London local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [304517]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell, the LSC's acting chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Train to Gain Programme: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding he expects to allocate to Train to Gain in each of the next three years. [308965]

Kevin Brennan: Since its introduction in April 2006, 1.4 million qualifications have been undertaken through the Train to Gain programme. In the 2010-11 financial year, planned investment in Train to Gain will be £983 million, an increase of 6.2 per cent. compared with planned investment for the 2009-10 financial year. Our continuing investment in this programme, and in the broader further education and skills sector, for 2010-11 financial year has recently been set out in the Skills Investment Strategy 2010-11 (November 2009). This is available online

http://www.bis.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/publications/Skills-Investment-Strategy.pdf

Investment for the 2011-12 financial year and beyond will not be finalised until the outcomes of the next spending review have been determined.

Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with reference to paragraph 16 of "Skills for Growth", Cm 7641, what estimate he has made of the proportion of the £38 billion spent by employers on skills which is spent on statutory training; and if he will make a statement. [308828]

Kevin Brennan: We do not have a figure for the total spend on statutory training by employers. However, we do know from the National Employer Skills Survey 2007 that only 11 per cent. of employers say that all of their training is in health and safety or induction.

Government are committed to encourage employers to invest more in training, which is vital for businesses success and for employees. We already provide, for example, advice and support for training through Business Link and the Train to Gain programme. And "Skills for Growth", published in November, sets out how we will support employers further: focusing more of the skills budget on growth sectors and the skills that employers tell us are the priorities; responding to immediate and long-term needs; and encouraging employers to invest and use the existing skills of their staff.

Vocational Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many organisations have signed the Skills Pledge in each month since it was announced. [307781]

Kevin Brennan: The Skills Pledge is a voluntary, public commitment by the leadership of a company or organisation to support all its employees to develop their basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant, valuable qualifications to at least level 2 (equivalent to five good GCSEs).

The following table indicates the number of organisations who have signed the Skills Pledge in each month since it was launched in 2007:

Month	*Total employers*[1]
	960
June to December 2007	[2]—
January 2008	280
February 2008	890
March 2008	460
April 2008	500
May 2008	630
June 2008	960
July 2008	1,250
August 2008	890
September 2008	820
October 2008	1,550
November 2008	1,120
December 2008	970
January 2009	1,530
February 2009	1,660
March 2009	1,840
April 2009	730
May 2009	1,030
June 2009	1,010
July 2009	860
August 2009	740
September 2009	1,100
October 2009	930

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

[2] Data not available month by month for this period.

Notes:

1. Table shows the number of employers who have formally signed the Skills Pledge in the month shown.
2. Data sourced from Learning and Skills Council December 2009.

Vocational Training: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what the budget is for *(a)* the UK Commission for Employment and Skills and *(b)* his Department's expenditure on skills funding to regional development agencies in 2010-11. [309507]

Kevin Brennan: The grant in aid arrangements for the UK Commission for Employment and Skills in 2010-11 have still to be finalised, but funding amounted to £89 million in 2009-10.

The Department is contributing £42 million in total for skills to regional development agencies in 2010-11 as part of their single pot. Its funding for skills brokerage in Train to Gain, which is delivered through Business Link has yet to be finalised, but amounted to £37 million in 2009-10.

Voluntary Work

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding the Learning and Skills Council has provided to promote volunteering in each local authority area in each of the last three years. [308212]

Kevin Brennan: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) did not fund the promotion of volunteering before 2009. Funding is £2 million for 2009-10; and £2 million for 2010-11.

We do not have funding information broken down by local authority areas.

Work Experience

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many firms have claimed their weekly entitlement towards the cost of providing an internship since September 2009. [307786]

Mr. Lammy: By March 2010, 20,000 graduate internships overall will have been created in the private, public and third sectors to help young people develop the skills they need to build their employability. There will be different models for these internships. Up to 10,000 of these places will be delivered in partnership with the Federation of Small Businesses, of which at least 5,000 will receive an allowance towards the cost of the internship. That will provide £100 per week towards the wage costs involved and employers will meet the balance.

These places are being provided through the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the universities. Details of the funding awarded will be published in January and we expect the bulk of the employers to be providing internships and receiving allowances by the end of March.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 12 January 2010

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Information Officers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* press officers and *(b)* communications staff were employed by his Department (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available; and what the cost of employing these staff was in each such year. [309927]

Mr. Woodward: All communication duties within my Department are conducted by press officers. The number and costs are detailed in the following table.

	Press officers	*Cost (£)*
2009-08	10	579,343.36
2008-07	10	532,022.10
2007-06	14	686,416.62
2006-05	12	596,888.06
2005-04	14	540,123.79

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the rules governing the holding of other jobs by *(a)* the Chairman and *(b)* members of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. [308990]

Paul Goggins: The terms and conditions of the Chief Commissioner and other Commissioners of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) require them to inform the Secretary of State and the NIHRC's chief executive in advance of any appointments that may impinge on their duties as Commissioners and to declare any conflicts of interest. The NIHRC code of practice also contains further guidance for Commissioners. This can be found at:

www.nihrc.org/dms/data/NIHRC/attachments/dd/files/41/Code_of_PracticeforCommissioners_1107.pdf

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) on *(a)* travel, *(b)* public relations and *(c)* publications in each year since the NIHRC's inception. [309074]

Mr. Woodward: The annual reports and financial accounts of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (with the exception of their first two years' financial accounts, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House) are available publicly on the Commission's website at:

http://www.nihrc.org/index.php?page=subresources& category_id=27&from=0&resources_id=56&search_content=&Itemid=61

These reports contain a breakdown of the Commission's operating costs by category of expenditure. The categories for each year which might be said to relate to travel, public relations or publications are listed as follows.

	£
1999-2000	
Hospitality, travel and subsistence	25,434
Advertising and publicity	78,819
Conferences and seminars	n/a
Printing, postage and stationery	20,240
2000-01	
Hospitality, travel and subsistence	19,843
Advertising and publicity	42,701
Conferences and seminars	n/a
Printing, postage and stationery	29,294
2001-02	
Hospitality, travel and subsistence	12,954
Advertising and publicity	27,540
Conferences and seminars	775
Printing, postage and stationery	31,600
2002-03	
Hospitality, travel and subsistence	11,637
Advertising and publicity	32,059
Conferences and seminars	2,184
Printing, postage and stationery	27,728
2003-04	
Hospitality, travel and subsistence	21,056
Advertising and publicity	48,178
Conferences and seminars	20,449
Printing, postage and stationery	26,563
2004-05	
Hospitality, travel and subsistence	29,[illegible]02
Advertising and publicity	35,459
Conferences and seminars	3,567
Printing, postage and stationery	26,999
2005-06	
Travel, subsistence and hospitality	47,729
Advertising, publicity and publications	73,250
Conferences and seminars	n/a
Printing, postage and stationery	40,013
2006-07	
Travel, subsistence and hospitality	69,984
Advertising, publicity and publications	63,898
Conferences and seminars	23,041
Printing, postage and stationery	34,888
2007-08	
Travel, subsistence and hospitality	60,470
Advertising, publicity and publications	69,325
Conferences and seminars	41,423
Printing, postage and stationery	35,396

SCOTLAND

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of his Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the cost of the survey was. [309837]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office's most recent people survey was delivered as part of the Ministry of Justice people survey, and as such its costs were borne by, and not split out from, those of the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice's share of ORC International's costs for providing the 2009 survey was £192,000. By procuring a single supplier for staff surveys in 2009-10 the civil service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008-09. The results of the 2009 survey are expected at the end of January 2010 and these will be published on our website. Following publication we will place a copy of the results in the Library.

A copy of the last Scotland Office staff survey published in 2007 is available from the Library of the House.

Water

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the activities in Scotland of water companies providing services in England. [310074]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend and I have had no such discussions.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Military Bases

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his plans are for the future of Royal Air Force bases in North Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement. [310073]

Bill Rammell: RAF Linton-on-Ouse, RAF Church Fenton and RAF Topcliffe are sites that currently provide UK military flying training. The stations are under review as part of the UK Military Flying Training System (MFTS) procurement project which will cater for the future flying training needs of the armed forces. No decisions have yet been taken.

RAF Leeming will continue to be a core RAF site, with 90 Signals unit providing the RAF communications hub and other units providing support to operations.

The number and operation of military airfields is under constant review to ensure that the best use is made of the Defence Estate for our armed forces.

Armed Forces: Aviation

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the procurement of commercial airline services for the movement of members of the UK armed forces; whether his Department's policy is only to procure the services of UK-owned and operated commercial airlines for such purposes; and if he will make a statement. [309609]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The procurement of commercial airline services for the movement of members of the UK armed forces is governed by the Public Procurement Requirement and MOD Standard Procurement Policy. Tasks requiring commercial airline services are not restricted to UK-owned and operated commercial airlines.

Tasks are advertised in the Defence Contracts Bulletin and the Official Journal of the European Union, thus permitting aircraft brokers and airline operators from the UK and other nations to bid for contracts. Contracts will be awarded on the grounds of technical ability to achieve the task, safety and security standards, and of offering best value for money.

Armed Forces: Families

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to consult service families' organisations on the development of his forthcoming Green Paper and Defence Review. [310058]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Service personnel issues are an important theme in the Green Paper. In December 2009, we briefed service and ex-service organisations on the themes of the Green Paper at one of the Department's regular meetings with them. Once the Green Paper has been published there will be further opportunities for service families' organisations to comment on it.

The Defence Review will be conducted in a new Parliament, and it is too early to say precisely how it will be conducted. This includes decisions about the forms of engagement that will take place during its development.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the 50 most expensive substitute *(a)* service family and *(b)* single living accommodation properties rented out in the last 12 months were. [310252]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Substitute service family accommodation (SSFA) and substitute service single accommodation (SSSA) properties may be rented to accommodate service families and single serving personnel respectively when no suitable Ministry of Defence accommodation is unavailable close or at the duty station. Substitute accommodation is only used as a last resort and often more than one service person may occupy an SSSA property.

The 50 most expensive SSSA properties rented during 2009 were as follows:

Location	*Monthly rent (£)*	*Number of occupants*
London SW1P	3,275.00	3
London SW1P	3,240.00	3
Slough	3,060.75	5
London SW1P	3,030.00	1
London SW1V	2,814.80	3
London N1	2,550.00	3
Salisbury	2,525.00	4
London SE1	2,513.33	2
London SW6	2,408.33	3
London SW1P	2,408.33	2
Saffron Walden	2,402.50	4
London SW1P	2,384.20	2
London SW10	2,383.33	1
London SW17	2,371.15	3
London SW1P	2,340.00	2
London SE1	2,331.80	3
London SW1P	2,325.00	3

Location	*Monthly rent (£)*	*Number of occupants*
London SW1P	2,301.25	2
Nottingham	2,300.00	5
London SW6	2,280.25	2
London SW1P	2,275.00	2
London SW8	2,272.00	2
London NW5	2,253.33	1
London SW1P	2,214.75	2
London SE1	2,209.35	2
London E14	2,202.20	2
Bordon	2,200.00	4
London SW11	2,200.00	2
London SW1P	2,200.00	2
Bordon	2,200.00	4
London SW1P	2,195.50	2
London SE1	2,192.33	2
London SW1V	2,192.00	2
London E14	2,191.66	2
London W8	2,191.66	1
London SE1	2,188.33	1
London SW8	2,185.05	2
London SW1P	2,184.00	2
London SW1P	2,182.85	2
London SW1V	2,181.55	2
London SW1V	2,178.50	2
London SW1P	2,177.80	2
London SW9	2,175.65	2
London SW1P	2,173.60	2
London SW11	2,171.60	2
London SW1P	2,170.00	2
London SW1P	2,169.45	2
London SW1P	2,169.45	2
London SW8	2,162.20	2
London SW11	2,162.00	2

The 50 most expensive SSFA properties rented during 2009 were as follows:

Location	*Monthly rent (£)*
London SW3	6,933.33
London W2	6,000.00
Northwood	4,700.00
Windsor	4,500.00
Gerrards Cross	4,280.00
London SW19	4,117.00
Northwood	4,038.00
London W6	3,900.00
London SW13	3,725.00
London SW6	3,708.33
New Malden	3,700.00
London SW15	3,683.33
London W4	3,575.00
London SW4	3,575.00
London SE10	3,525.00
Great Missenden	3,500.00
Warminster	3,500.00
Windsor	3,500.00
London NW3	3,383.33
London E14	3,298.75
Richmond	3,284.45
London SW6	3,228.33
Banstead	3,225.00
London W4	3,163.33
Richmond	3,152.05
London W4	3,141.66
London SW15	3,126.00
Sevenoaks	3,050.75
London SW11	3,033.33
London SW15	3,025.25
London W4	3,025.00
Princes Risborough	3,000.00
Great Missenden	3,000.00
Camberley	3,000.00
Great Missenden	3,000.00
Romsey	3,000.00
London SW15	3,000.00
Northwood	3,000.00
Great Missenden	2,950.00
Kingston Upon Thames	2,925.00
Burford	2,920.00
Epsom	2,920.00
Aylesbury	2,900.00
Northwood	2,900.00
London SE10	2,900.00
High Wycombe	2,850.00
Epsom	2,850.00
London SW15	2,839.00
London SW6	2,825.00
Windsor	2,800.00

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding has been allocated for the development of the taped seam clothing specification for waterproof clothing as part of his Department's personal equipment and common operational clothing contract to date. [309616]

Mr. Quentin Davies: £5,000 has been spent from the personal equipment and common operational clothing (PECOC) budget on procuring different types of waterproof clothing for testing.

Departmental Land

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of maintaining land owned by his Department was in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of such land was at the latest date for which figures are available. [310253]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 31 March 2009, the Department owned land throughout the world valued at £7.7 billion. It is not possible to separate the amount spent on maintaining land from other elements of estate expenditure without incurring disproportionate cost.

USA: Military Aircraft

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions have taken place since 2006 between his Department and the United States Department of Defence on the developmental progress of the electro-magnetic aircraft launch system. [309663]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The UK and the US are in regular contact on aircraft carrier issues, including the electro-magnetic aircraft launch system (EMALS). Since 2006 there have been a number of meetings and information exchanges between the MOD's Capital Ships project team and the US Department of Defence's PEO Carriers Team which have covered progress on the EMALS project. The most recent engagement on EMALS between these teams was in November 2009.

WALES

Boilers: Government Assistance

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will publish the correspondence his Department has had with the Treasury on whether the boiler scrappage scheme should apply in Wales. [310507]

Mr. Hain: I have had discussions on the 2009 pre-Budget report and its implications for Wales. However I have had no written correspondence with the Treasury on this specific issue.

Wales will receive consequentials as a consequence of the England-only boiler scrappage scheme. It is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government to decide how to allocate this additional funding.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ACP Countries: EU Overseas Trade

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he plans to review the effectiveness of the Sugar Protocol between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific states in providing such countries with access to EU markets. [309434]

Mr. Thomas: The UK supported the ending of the Protocol as it led to a highly distorted market for sugar, with European prices three times the global average. The reforms of the sugar market will also give greater access to EU sugar markets from least developed countries.

The UK will continue to monitor the impact of these changes on ACP countries. The European Commission is making €1.28 billion transitional funding available to help assist ACP countries adjust.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format by his Department of each security classification have been submitted to the Iraq Inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [309372]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer you to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 840-41W, by the Minister of State for the Cabinet Office who has answered on behalf of all Departments.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Bars

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission with reference to the press statement of 15 December 2009, on the opening of a nursery on the parliamentary estate; what *(a)* consideration the Administration Committee gave to and *(b)* consultation with users was undertaken on the closure of Bellamy's bar; and whether the House of Commons Commission has plans to provide an alternative venue for Bellamy's bar. [309750]

Nick Harvey: Following the House of Commons Commission's decision that a nursery is to be provided on the parliamentary estate in the space currently occupied by Bellamy's bar, I understand that *(a)* the Administration Committee will be consulted, as the details are worked up, on matters such as the service level requirements and contractual arrangements for the provision of nursery services and the timetable for conversion of the accommodation. On *(b)*, users of the bar are able to make use of the existing provision elsewhere on the estate and there are no plans to provide an alternative venue.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Farmers: Income

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what programmes his Department funds to assist farmers to diversify into tourism; and how much funding has been allocated under each such programme in 2009-10. [310363]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Under the Rural Development Programme for England an indicative budget of approximately £85 million has been identified for assistance to farmers to diversify into non-agricultural activities for the Programme period 2007-13. To the end of November 2009 £10.7 million had been spent with a further £18.1 million committed to new diversification projects.

It is not possible to break these figures down into specific diversification activities, or to break down overall funding figures into individual financial years within the given timescale.

TRANSPORT

A50

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to ensure the installation of effective soundproofed fencing along the A50 at Blythe Bridge. [309862]

Chris Mole: On 14 December 2009 representatives of the Highways Agency met with the hon. Member for Stone (Mr. Cash), local politicians and a number of residents to discuss the recently replaced noise fence on the A50 at Blythe Bridge, and the overall concerns of the residents about noise.

At the meeting, it was agreed that Highways Agency officials would review the effectiveness of the fence and consider other noise related points raised by the group. Once the review is complete the Department for Transport will write to the hon. Member for Stone and other interested parties to let them know the outcome.

A519

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he has taken to provide sufficient safety measures on the A519 at Slindon. [309865]

Paul Clark: The A519 is a local road and the responsibility of Staffordshire county council. I understand that the county council have recently undertaken speed surveys along this stretch of highway which indicate that no enforcement action is necessary. As part of the national review of speed limits on A and B roads, the A519 through Slindon will undergo a review commencing in April 2010.

Airports: Security

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when his Department plans to announce which airports in the Highlands and Islands will introduce full body scanners; and when he expects such scanners to be operational. [310376]

Paul Clark: The introduction of scanners is a necessary additional measure in response to the heightened threat to the travelling public. We are discussing urgently with the airport industry the widespread roll out of scanners at UK airports as soon as is practical and developing the code of practice required for their use.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has undertaken an economic impact assessment of the introduction of full body scanners at airports in the Highlands and Islands. [310378]

Paul Clark: Relevant assessments will be made, but the introduction of scanners is a necessary additional measure in response to the heightened threat to the travelling public. We are discussing urgently with the airport industry the widespread roll out of scanners at UK airports as soon as is practical and developing the code of practice for their use.

Aviation

Mark Hunter: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many premium economy tickets were purchased for flights leaving the UK in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [309759]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Aviation: Security

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether his Department has conducted a recent investigation into the practices of *(a)* the Slovakian authorities and *(b)* relevant authorities of other EU member states in placing test packets of explosives into passenger baggage for the purposes of testing airport explosive detection systems; what information his Department holds on whether such practices are in use on (i) flights to the UK and (ii) flights with UK carriers; whether the issue has been placed on the agenda of the Council of Ministers for consideration; and if he will make a statement. [310272]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* European regulations on aviation security require each member state to apply a national quality control programme to monitor compliance with and ensure the effectiveness of its aviation security programme.

The UK does not hold details of the Slovakian quality control programme nor those of other member states. The monitoring of these programmes at a Community level is undertaken by the European Commission.

Department for Transport officials have been in touch with the European Commission in respect of the recent incident in Slovakia and the Commission has indicated that it will be writing to the Slovak authorities to ask for a detailed explanation on what happened in order to determine whether further action is necessary.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Databases

Bob Russell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much was received in payments from private companies for information from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database in each of the last five financial years; and how much he estimates will be received from such payments in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11. [309721]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* The following table shows the income received from private companies for information from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's Databases.

	£ million
2004-05	4.7
2005-06	6.2
2006-07	7.0
2007-08	8.1
2008-09	8.7
2009-10	9.2

[1] Estimated forecast to year end

Note:

Figures are not currently available for 2010-11

Driving under Influence

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what timetable has been set for the *(a)* publication of and *(b)* Government response to the review by Sir Peter North of proposed changes to the legislative regime for drink and drug driving. [309461]

Paul Clark: Sir Peter North has been asked to report by 31 March. The Department for Transport will then consult on his findings and will then publish the final road safety strategy. The date for publishing the report and the strategy will be decided in light of Sir Peter's findings.

Roads: Safety

Mr. Soames: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will issue guidance to local authorities on best practice in dealing with the effects of extreme weather conditions on UK roads. [310505]

Mr. Khan: The Government endorse the UK Roads Liaison Group's (UKRLG) code of practice on highways maintenance management, "Well-maintained Highways", which already includes recently-updated guidance on winter service and other extreme weather events. The code is available free from:

www.ukroadsliaisongroup.org

On the specific issue of managing salt distribution for keeping local roads clear, we are working with salt suppliers, the Local Government Association and the Highways Agency to prioritise the use of salt, to ensure salt reaches those most in need.

It is up to local highways authorities to decide what measures to take in response to the severe weather conditions.

Trans-European Network Transport Programme

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport for which *(a)* rail and *(b)* road projects his Department has bid for funds under the Trans-European Network Transport programme in each year since 1997; and how much was (i) requested and (ii) allocated in each case. [309628]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: The following tables list the projects submitted for funding from the Trans-European Network Transport (TEN-T) programme:

Rail projects

	Title	*Requested*	*€ million Allocated*
1997	Modernisation of the West Coast main line, between London and Scotland	n/a	1.6
1997	Channel Tunnel Rail Link	n/a	24
1997	Feasibility study and associated design work for the modernisation of the West Coast main line	n/a	7
1998	Channel Tunnel Rail Link	16.6	25
1998	West Coast main line	6.9	10
1998	Manchester airport interchange	11.2	0.5
1998	Luton airport—railway station—airport people mover	0.4	0.6
1999	Channel Tunnel Rail Link	35	29.5
1999	West coast main line—studies	15	13
1999	Manchester airport ground transport Interchange—phase 2	3.8	0.8
1999	London Luton airport surface access (people mover)—phase 2	0.7	0.714
1999	Birmingham airport people mover and multi-modal interchange	1.39	1.39
2000	Channel Tunnel Rail Link	40	30
2000	West Coast main line	20	16
2000	Manchester airport ground transport interchange	0.59	0.50
2001	Cross London routes study	1.2	1
2001	Feasibility study for trans-Pennine and North Wales—improved links to Manchester airport	5.0	1.5
2001	Stanstead airport—improved rail link study	3.0	0
2001	Manchester airport ground interchange	5.7	0
2001	Birmingham airport people mover and interchange	1	0
2001	East Coast main line freight (study)	1	0
2001	East Coast main line passenger study	5	0
2001	East Coast main line passenger project	5	0
2001	High speed line study	1.2	0
2002	Feasibility study for Southampton to West Coast main line (Liverpool and Manchester) gauge and capacity enhancement works for rail freight	2.5	1
2003	Southampton to WCML rail freight upgrade (study)	1	1
2003	Manchester airport ground interchange phase 3a	1.07	1.07
2003	Reconstruction of Bleach Green to Whitehead section of TENs route rail project	2.15	2.15
2004	Reading station	1.14	1
2005	Edinburgh airport rail link study	3.56	2
2005	Rail freight capacity and gauge improvement Haven Ports to South Yorkshire terminals	1.82	0
2006	Glasgow airport rail link study	3.3	1.7
2006	Edinburgh airport rail link study	3.95	0
2006	Heathrow airtrack study	1.37	0
2006	Eurotunnel—ERTMS—GSM-R study (joint bid with France)	6.63	0
2006	SMART (Solent—Midlands advancement of rail transport for freight)	8.5	0
2007	Manchester airport 3rd rail platform	2.07	1.64
2008	Ballymena—Derry: track life extension	1.58	1.58
2008	Forth replacement crossing	6.6	0
2009	Felixstowe—Nuneaton route work	14.9	9.2
2009	Birmingham New Street Gateway—improving access and capacity	2.45	0
2009	Reading station area redevelopment—for the period 2009-2010	17.39	0
2009	West Coast stations	7.46	0
2009	Manchester hub study	0.65	0
2009	Edinburgh Glasgow improvements programme (EGIP)	3.98	0
2009	Forth replacement crossing, Scotland, United Kingdom	9.3	0
2009	Reading station concourse and interchange design and planning application	0.87	0

n/a = Not available.

Rail projects (multi-annual work programme), budget period 2000-2006

Title	Requested	€ million Allocated
Channel Tunnel Rail Link	210	103
West Coast main line	120	53
Kings Cross/St. Pancras interchange	25	21
Felixstowe to Nuneaton upgrade	33.7	5

Road projects

	Title	Requested	€ million Allocated
1997	A75 Stranraer to Gretna Trunk Road	n/a	1.3
1997	English Studies on the Ireland-UK-Benelux Road Link: M6/M11 capacity studies; bridge strength assessment study; English A14 strategy study	n/a	1.7
1998	Cardiff International Airport Road: Phase B (1998-99) studies	1.3	1.3
2000	Ireland-UK-Benelux Road Link	0.52	0.50
2000	A303 Stonehenge improvement	6.2	0
2001	A303 Stonehenge improvement	1.5	0
2001	A8 Belfast to Larne Road	1.7	0
2001	Trans-Pennine upgrade study (freight)	5	1.5
2005	A1/N1 Newry to Dundalk Works	6.95	5
2006	A5117 Deeside Park Junction improvement works	6.1	4
2009	A14 Corridor Traffic Management Scheme	17.7	11.7
2009	A8 Belfast to Larne (Coleman's Corner to Ballyrickard Road)	2.17	2.17
2009	A6 Randalstown to Londonderry (Londonderry to Dungiven)	3.03	1.32
2009	A5 Western Transport Corridor (WTC) study	10	0

n/a = Not available.

Road projects (multi-annual work programme), budget periods 2000-2006 and 2007-2013

Title	Requested	€ million Allocated
A1 Loughbrickland to Beech Hill Works	2.42	1.5
A120 Stanstead to Braintree road upgrading	15.8	15.8
Package for improvements and upgrade of road infrastructure on sections of A14, M6 and A1.	283.72	80.71

WORK AND PENSIONS

Disability Living Allowance

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* Chesterfield constituency, *(b)* Derbyshire and *(c)* England received (i) the mobility component, (ii) the care component and (iii) both the mobility and the care components of the disability living allowance in each of the last five years. [308966]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following tables:

Disability living allowance cases in payment for the Chesterfield parliamentary constituency for each of the last five years, as at May of each year

	May 2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Care component only	810	850	890	900	940
Mobility component only	1,290	1,270	1,210	1,220	1,200
Care and mobility components	4,170	4,380	4,530	4,790	5,010
Total	6,270	6,500	6,630	6,910	7,150

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. The postcode of a claimant is used to assign the parliamentary constituency, local authority and government office region.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Disability living allowance cases in payment for Derbyshire county/unitary local authority for each of the last five years, as at May of each year

	May 2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Care component only	5,350	5,600	5,780	5,910	6,110
Mobility component only	8,090	7,930	7,690	7,480	7,260
Care and mobility components	25,440	26,440	27,660	28,930	30,140
Total	38,880	39,970	41,130	42,320	43,510

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital. 3. The Derbyshire region is defined as the unitary local authority of the claimant and includes eight local authorities. The postcode of a claimant is used to assign the parliamentary constituency, local authority and government office region. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Disability living allowance cases in payment in England for each of the last five years, as at May of each year

	May 2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Care component only	307,350	314,330	317,120	328,040	336,370
Mobility component only	443,330	434,990	424,320	416,130	406,200
Care and mobility components	1,453,120	1,512,780	[illegible]88,240	1,667,590	1,751,540
Total	2,203,800	2,262,100	2,329,680	2,411,760	2,494,110

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital. 3. The postcode of a claimant is used to assign the parliamentary constituency, local authority and government office region. Local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated cost to her Department is of *(a)* the Young Person's Guarantee and *(b)* the Graduate Guarantee in 2009-10. [309729]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* In Budget 2009, the Chancellor announced the Young Person's Guarantee, a £1 billion package of work and training opportunities for young people phased in between October 2009 and January 2010 and available until March 2011. It is not possible to estimate expenditure in 2009-10 because it is dependent on the number of jobs that will be bid for in each monthly Future Jobs Fund bidding round. This cannot be estimated with any degree of certainty as the fund is a challenge fund.

The Graduate Guarantee draws on a range of DWP and BIS-funded provision, including BIS's Graduate Talent Pool and DWP's Six Month Offer. As we do not know how many graduates will access help through different routes, we are unable to provide an estimate of the cost of the Graduate Guarantee to DWP.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time for a jobseeker's allowance application has been in the last 12 months. [309726]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the average processing time for a jobseeker's allowance application has been in the last 12 months. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus does have a target for the average actual clearance time taken to process Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claims. The current target is 11.5 days. This time is calculated across an average of all the claims cleared in any given month looking at the date the customer first contacted Jobcentre Plus or the customer's first day of unemployment, whichever is the later. The end date is the date a formal decision is made on the claim and a notification is issued to the customer on entitlement.

The following table provides the average actual clearance time taken to process JSA claims over the last 12 months. This information is available on the Jobcentre Plus website.

Month	*Days*
December 2008	10.4
January 2009	10.3
February 2009	10.5
March 2009	9.7
April 2009	9.5
May 2009	9.9
June 2009	10.1
July 2009	10.5
August 2009	10.7
September 2009	10.0
October 2009	9.7
November 2009	9.2

Source:
MISP 11 December 2009

I hope this information is helpful

New Deal Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of the milestones referred to in her Department's paper "Transforming Britain's labour market: Ten years of the New Deal" *(a)* has and *(b)* has not been met on time; and what progress has been made on those milestones which have not been met. [304379]

Jim Knight: We outlined a number of commitments in the Department for Work and Pensions paper "Transforming Britain's labour market: Ten years of the New Deal". I have outlined these in the following table.

Commitment	*Date*	*Progress*
Parents		
Consultation on whether the Skills Health Check should be mandatory for lone parents	Early 2008	Consultation was undertaken on whether Lone Parents should be mandated to Work Related Activity as part of the 2008 Green Paper ('No-one Written Of[illegible] July 2008')
Review of how to extend right to request flexible working to parents of older children	Spring 2008	Fully introduced
Introduce group seminars for lone parents nationally	April 2008	Fully introduced
Jobcentre Plus will aim, where possible, to guarantee lone parents who are willing and able to work a job interview with an employer	April 2008	Fully introduced
Support and guidance from a personal adviser available for all lone parents who have moved into work	April 2008	Fully introduced
National roll-out of the In Work Emergency Discretion Fund	April 2008	Fully introduced
Pilot of the provision of up-front child care costs in London	April 2008	Fully introduced
Extend In Work Credit to all lone parents	April 2008	Fully introduced
Pilot of In Work Credit and retention package for lone parents	April 2008	Fully introduced
Legal duty on local authorities in England and Wales to secure sufficient child care to meet the needs of their local communities, in particular those on low incomes and with disabled children, takes effect	April 2008	Fully introduced
New Deal for Partners strengthened by increasing number of Work Focused Interviews	April 2008	Fully introduced
Introduce quarterly Work Focused Interviews for lone parents in the last year before their child reaches the age where they are no longer entitled to Income Support	From October 2008	Fully introduced
Lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over will no longer be entitled to Income Support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent	October 2008	Fully introduced

Commitment	*Date*	*Progress*
Extend Work Trials for up to six weeks for those taking part in the New Deal for Lone Parents	Late 2008	Fully introduced
Child maintenance disregard in main income related benefits to rise to £20 per week	By end 2008	Fully introduced
Lone parents with a youngest child aged 10 or over will no longer be entitled to Income Support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent	October 2009	Fully introduced
Skills screen for all new lone parent Income Support claimants as part of work-focused interview, and encourage attendance at full Skills Heath Check	2009-10	This will be considered as part of planning for the national implementation of an integrated employment and skills service for Jobseeker's Allowance customers in 2010-11
Child maintenance disregard in main income related benefits to rise to £40 per week	From April 2010	On track
Lone parents with a youngest child aged seven or over will no longer be entitled to Income Support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent	October 2010	On track
Every school in England to be an extended school	2010	On track
Jobseekers		
Back to Work Seminar pilots	Early 2008	Implemented March 2009
Flexible New Deal procurement activity begins	Spring 2008	Commenced April 2008
Pilot a Better Off in Work Credit	October 2008	Introduced in Yorkshire and the Humber in October 2008
Contracts awarded and contract start-up activity	Early spring 2009	Successful Flexible New Deal bidders announced May 2009 and start up activity commenced. Contracts signed with 14 Flexible New Deal Providers in August 2009
Changes by Jobcentre Plus to implement new Jobseeker's Allowance regime	April 2009	Phase 1 was completed in April 2009 (Phase 2 will be completed in April 2010)
First customers referred to contracted Flexible New Deal	October 2009	First customers referred to Flexible New Deal providers on 2 October (service delivery started in all contract package areas from 5 October)
Potential extension of a Better Off in Work Credit	2009	The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his pre-Budget report statement of 9 December 2009 that the Better Off in Work Credit will be rolled out across the country
Skills screen for all new Jobseeker's Allowance customers	2009-10	Fully introduced
In trial areas, pilot mandatory Skills Health Checks for long term Jobseeker's Allowance customers	2009-10	In the 12 Jobcentre Plus districts involved in trialling Integrated Employment and Skills services, Jobseeker's Allowance claimants who have not attended a Skills Health Check on a voluntary basis by week 26 of their claim are mandated to do so
Training allowances for long term Jobseeker's Allowance customers to attend intensive employability focused training of up to eight weeks	2009-10	This came into effect in April 09 on a national basis (originally trialled in the west midlands)
Pilot mandatory basic skills and job-focused training courses for Jobseeker's Allowance customers who have been on benefit for six months	2009-10	The Pilot for mandatory basic skills and job-focused training courses for Jobseeker's Allowance customers who have been on benefit for six months is due to commence in 2010 (pending the legislative process)
Health conditions and disabilities		
Publication of the review of the health of Britain's working age population led by the National Director for Health and Work, Dame Carol Black	Earl[illegible]08	'Working for a healthier tomorrow: Dame Carol Black's review of the health of Britain's working age population' was published in March 2008. Government responded to the review in November 2008 with the publication of 'Improving health and work: changing lives'
Pathways to Work available across Great Britain to anyone on incapacity benefits	April 2008	Fully introduced
Return to Work Credit of £40 per week tax free for a year available to everyone eligible who moves into work	April 2008	Fully introduced
Introduction of the Employment and Support Allowance	October 2008	Fully introduced
Introduction of mandatory Pathways to Work interviews and the new Work Capability Assessment for existing Incapacity Benefit customers who are under 25	2009	Introduction of mandatory Pathways to Work interviews achieved to timescale. Interviews are taking place between November 2009 and March 2011. Existing incapacity benefits customers under 25 will be assessed using the Work Capability Assessment when they are migrated to Employment and Support Allowance from October 2010
Remove Housing Benefit learning restrictions for short term Incapacity Benefit customers to allow them to study full time	2009	Yet to be introduced. Exploratory work is ongoing
Skills screen for Employment and Support Allowance customers soon after the start of claim, and where appropriate a mandatory Skills Health Check at a later point in claim	2009-11	This will be considered as part of planning for the national implementation of an integrated employment and skills service for Jobseeker's Allowance customers in 2010-11
Young people not in work, education or training		
Extend early entry to the New Deal for 18 year olds with a previous history of not being in work, education or training on a voluntary basis	April 2008	Fully introduced

Commitment	*Date*	*Progress*
Extend a mandatory early entry to the Flexible New Deal for 18 year olds who have not been in work, education or training for six months	April 2009	Fully introduced
Commissioning and Local Employment Partnership		
Publish the Department for Work and Pensions Commissioning Strategy	February 2008	Published February 2008
Pilots to test enhancing links between housing organisations and Jobcentre Plus services	2008	Pilots commenced 2008 and due to conclude spring 2011
The new Working Neighbourhoods Fund, jointly sponsored by Department for Work and Pensions and Department for Communities and Local Government will help to focus support and encourage enterprise in areas with high unemployment	2008-11	Fully introduced
Local Employment Partnerships to help 250,000 people into work	End of 2010	The Local Employment Partnerships milestone was achieved by the end of August 2009 and has been extended to 750,000
Benefit reform		
Publish further details of our approach to benefit reform	2008	Commitment met
Older workers		
Review of default retirement age	2011	We announced in 'Building a society for all ages' that we are bringing forward the review of the Default Retirement Age to 2010. In October the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Department for Work and Pensions issued a joint statement calling for evidence on retirement ages to be submitted by 1 February 2010. This evidence will be used to inform the Default Retirement Age review
UK Commission for Employment and Skills operational	April 2008	Operational from April 2008
Trial aspects of an integrated employment and skills service, including: new screening process for basic literacy, numeracy, language and employability skills; new adult advancement and careers service; Skills Health Check; and Skills Accounts for benefit customers	2008-09	The first integrated employment and skills trial began in September 2008. Since then trials have been under way in 12 Jobcentre Plus Districts
Suite of robust operational targets for Jobcentre Plus and the Learning and Skills Council, to underpin the shared Department for Work and Pensions/Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills objective of delivering sustainable employment and progression	2009	The Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills are in the process of finalising robust data measures relating to the commitment made in the 'Command Paper Work Skills, June 2008' that in 2010-11 over 100,000 people will be helped to gain sustainable employment and to achieve a recognised qualification
New adult advancement and careers service fully operational	2010-11	On track
Integrated employment and skills system fully operational	2010-11	On track

Pathways to Work

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people on Pathways to Work have moved back into sustainable employment *(a)* in each year since it has been operating and *(b)* in each of the last 12 months, listed by the main reason for which they were receiving incapacity benefit; and if she will make a statement. [307820]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 6 January 2010]*: Official statistics are not available on whether jobs are sustained. Pathways to Work has been operating across Great Britain since April 2008 and data on jobs are available up to January 2009. Figures are not available on the proportion of customers who get jobs because of the length of time needed to allow cohorts of customers to move into work. The monthly number of job entries in Jobcentre Plus and Provider-Led districts since April 2008 by main disabling condition, is shown in the following table:

Job entries through Pathways to Work (JCP and Provider-Led, April 2008-January 2009)

Start month	*Total*	*Unknown*	*Other*	*Mental and behavioural disorders*	*Diseases of the nervous system*	*Diseases of the circulatory system or respiratory system*	*Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective Tissue*	*Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes*
April 20008	6,580	840	1,430	2,500	180	260	810	570
May 2008	6,470	780	1,400	2,540	170	250	760	570
June 2008	6,730	690	1,450	2,740	150	260	780	670
July 2008	6,470	730	1,420	2,500	190	240	790	610
August 2008	6,640	670	1,460	2,600	180	240	790	690
September 2008	9,420	980	2,100	3,650	270	340	1,130	950
October 2008	7,870	670	1,850	3,160	230	280	950	730
November 2008	7,380	690	1,580	2,910	230	270	940	730
December 2008	4,530	510	1,030	1,720	120	170	540	440

Job entries through Pathways to Work (JCP and Provider-Led, April 2008-January 2009)

Start month	*Total*	*Unknown*	*Other*	*Mental and behavioural disorders*	*Diseases of the nervous system*	*Diseases of the circulatory system or respiratory system*	*Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective Tissue*	*Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes*
January 2009	6,040	1,000	1,310	2,060	150	200	720	610
Total	68,120	7,540	15,020	26,390	1,870	2,510	8,230	6,560

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

2. Medical condition information is based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation. Medical breakdowns are currently available for IB/SDA customers but not for those of ESA.

Source:

DWP JCP and Provider-Led databases

Social Security Benefits: Overseas Residence

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many British citizens resident in other EU member states have been receiving disability living allowance, carer's allowance or attendance allowance since 2007. [309534]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 7 January 2010]:* Since the judgment by the European Court of Justice in October 2007 over 1,700 people who are resident in other European Economic Area states have been paid disability living allowance, attendance allowance or carer's allowance.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals by British citizens resident in other EU member states on disability living allowance, carer's allowance and attendance allowance have been *(a)* made and *(b)* upheld in the last three years. [309536]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 7 January 2010]:* Since the judgment by the European Court of Justice in October 2007 over 500 appeals have been made by customers who are, or have been, resident in other EEA states. Our records do not indicate how many have been upheld in the last three years.

Social Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether people currently eligible for *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance would receive (i) an equivalent level of support, (ii) an equivalent cash payment and (iii) an equivalent cash payment in addition to any other funds received under the proposals in the Government's Social Care Green Paper. [307669]

Jonathan Shaw: As we said in the Green Paper, if we were to draw some disability [illegible] for older people into the new National Care S[illegible]ould create a new offer for individuals with care needs. This support would be delivered in line with the best principles of the current benefits system: a universal entitlement, with flexible methods of payment through personal budgets, and with a focus on lower-level needs and prevention. It is our aim to deliver a better joined-up service, with people only needing one assessment of their needs to gain access to a whole range of care and support services. We will give more details about the National Care Service offer in due course.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether an assessment for a package of care under the proposals in the Government's Social Care Green Paper includes an assessment of the additional costs of being disabled which will be carried out in the same terms as those proposals in the White Paper which introduced each allowance. [307671]

Jonathan Shaw: The Green Paper Shaping the Future of Care Together proposed a new nationally consistent care assessment process. We will give more details about the National Care Service offer in due course and this will include information on the care assessment process.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether an assessment for cash disbursement would take account of non-care services currently purchased out of funds made available through attendance allowance or disability living allowance under the proposals in the Government's Social Care Green Paper; [307675]

(2) whether she plans to provide an equivalent level of support under the proposals in the Government's Social Care Green Paper to include those non-care services currently purchased out of funds made available through attendance allowance and disability living allowance; [307676]

(3) whether she plans to place restrictions on the items or services on which people may spend funds from their *(a)* attendance allowance or disability living allowance and *(b)* other care entitlements. [307682]

Jonathan Shaw: We have not taken any decisions on whether some disability benefits for older people will be reformed in the new care and support system. If disability benefits for older people are reformed as part of the National Care Service, those receiving the affected benefits at the time of reform would continue to receive the same level of cash support. We also know that the flexibility of disability benefits is valued by those who receive them, and we want to ensure that those in receipt of affected benefits at the time of reform retain control over how they spend their cash support.

Under the new care and support system, once people are assessed they will get a personal budget rather than being told what services they should receive. They will have as much support as they want in using this resource. Some people will choose to take their budget as cash, and pay for everything directly themselves. Others will prefer to let someone else manage the funding on their behalf—either someone from the local authority, or a family member or friend. People will have the control to get the services they want.

We will give more details about the National Care Service offer in our White Paper in 2010.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many responses to her Department's Social Care Green Paper were *(a)* in favour of and *(b)* opposed to changes to (i) attendance allowance and (ii) disability living allowance. [307678]

Jonathan Shaw: The public consultation on the Green Paper "Shaping the Future of Care Together", received around 29,000 responses overall. Analysis of all the responses is currently under way, and it would be misleading to comment or provide data on the results until this analysis is fully completed. The Government will be publishing an analysis of the responses in due course.

Winter Fuel Payments: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Milton Keynes are in receipt of winter fuel allowance; and how much her Department paid to such pensioners in winter fuel allowance in 2009. [310224]

Angela Eagle: For winter 2008-09—the last winter for which figures are available—16,810 people in North-East Milton Keynes and 17,350 people in Milton Keynes, South-West received winter fuel payments.

The Department paid £3.6 million to people in North-East Milton Keynes and £3.8 million to those in Milton Keynes, South-West.

Winter Fuel Payments: Slough

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for winter fuel payments were made by households in Slough in each of the last five years. [310438]

Angela Eagle: Information on winter fuel payment claims made by households in Slough is not available.

Information about the number of payments made to households in Slough is in the following table. 2008-09 is the latest year for which information is available.

	Slough constituency
2004-05	13,800
2005-06	13,710
2006-07	13,730
2007-08	13,870
2008-09	14,090

Notes
1. Figures from 2004-05 are rounded to the nearest five
2. Figures from 2005-06 onwards are rounded to the nearest 10
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory

Source
Information directorate 100 per cent data

HOME DEPARTMENT

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a new chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs will be appointed; and if he will make a statement. [306008]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department met with the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) on 10 November and outlined the process for recruiting a new chair of the ACMD following the guidelines of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). My officials are currently pursuing options for appointing the new chair with OCPA and with the ACMD.

Antisocial Behaviour: West Midlands

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department has allocated to initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the West Midlands in each year since 2007. [309442]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As with all other Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), Tamworth was allocated £25,000 a year from 2003-04 as a contribution towards funding an ASB co-ordinator post. In 2005-06, in England the antisocial co-ordinators grant was pooled within the safer and stronger communities fund. This pooled budget supports the delivery of outcomes and indicators relating to antisocial behaviour in local area agreements (LAAs).

Other budgets also contribute towards the wider cross-Government strategy to tackle antisocial behaviour. The Government are committed to diverting young people from crime and antisocial behaviour as demonstrated by our investment of around £2 billion on prevention, including activity such as Sure Start Children's Centres, parenting support and positive activities. Last year we launched the Youth Crime Action Plan, a cross-government programme of action to tackle youth crime and antisocial behaviour and reduce re-offending. It set out a triple track approach of enforcement where behaviour is unacceptable, non-negotiable support and challenge to children and families where it is needed and better and earlier prevention. This builds on major progress we have made in the last decade in tackling youth offending. Backed by £100 million of new investment it has led to significant action over the past year and a half, which has made a real difference to young people, families and communities. The number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time is falling. The number in England fell from 94,481 in 2007-08 to 74,033 in 2008-09—a 21.6 per cent. decrease.

Home Office led activities also act to tackle antisocial behaviour, for example the introduction of community support officers, but a monetary value cannot be assigned to that contribution. Also, on 13 October the Home Secretary announced assistance by experts to 62 areas where public perceptions of antisocial behaviour were high. As Tamworth is a priority area it received a visit from an ASB expert on 10 November 2009 and an action plan and support package has been signed off.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many breaches of antisocial behaviour orders have been recorded in *(a)* Tamworth constituency, *(b)* Staffordshire and *(c)* the West Midlands in each year since 2007. [309443]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Breach of an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) is a criminal offence. The number of occasions on which ASBOs were proven to have been breached at all courts in the Staffordshire Criminal Justice System (CJS) area and the West Midlands Government Office Region (GOR) during 2007 is 98 and 720 respectively. ASBOs may be breached more than once and in more than one year. Many ASBOs which are breached in a particular year will have been issued in a previous year. ASBOs may be issued in one CJS area and breached in another—the breach occasions counted here are based on area of breach, not issue. The West Midlands GOR comprises the Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Mercia and West Midlands CJS areas.

Data on breaches of ASBOs collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice and held on the court proceedings database only count those occasions where the breach was proven in court to have occurred and are currently available for ASBOs issued between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2007. These data are not compiled below CJS area level.

Burglary: Rotherham

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes of burglary were recorded in Rotherham in each year since 2005. [308141]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is given in the following table.

Recorded offences of burglary in the Rotherham Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area

	Burglary in a dwelling	*Other burglary*	*Total burglary*
2005-06	1,374	2,151	3,525
2006-07	1,457	2,106	3,563
2007-08	1,313	1,818	3,131
2008-09	1,184	1,674	2,858

Children: Police Custody

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department provides to chief constables on detention of children in police cells; and if he will make a statement. [309886]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office issues two pieces of guidance on the detention of those in custody, including juveniles.

The PACE Codes of Practice, specifically PACE Code C, outline the requirements on the police with regards to juveniles in custody. Copies of the PACE Codes can be found on the Home Office website:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/pace-code-intro/indexce1a.html?version=17

In addition to the PACE Codes, the Home Office, in conjunction with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the National Centre for Policing Excellence (now the National Policing Improvement Agency), has also published "Guidance on the Safer Detention and Handling of Persons in Police Custody". This guidance is also available on the Home Office website:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/operational-policing/Safer_Detention_and_Handling1.html

Crime: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* crimes, *(b)* crimes of domestic burglary, *(c)* vehicle-related crimes and *(d)* violent crimes there were in Nottingham North constituency in (i) 1997 and (ii) the last year for which information is available. [309024]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Recorded crime data are not collected specifically at constituency level. The available data relate to the most closely linked Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area. CDRP data are available only from 1999-2000 onwards. Data for the Nottingham CDRP area for 2008-09 are given in the following table:

Offences recorded by Nottingham police, 2008-09

Offence	*Number*
Total crime	47,467
Domestic burglary	4,367
Vehicle-related crime	6,096
Violence against the person	8,599

Crime: Olympic Games 2012

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has made an assessment of the likely effects on levels of crime of the staging of the London 2012 Olympics. [308480]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Consideration of levels of crime associated with staging the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games is undertaken as part of the regular Olympic strategic threat assessment process. Analysis of experiences at previous games indicates and in the footprint of 2012 Olympic venues suggests that reported crime is unlikely to rise substantially, if at all, during games time. However, we are regularly assessing the possibility of changes in crime levels specifically related to the Olympics and putting in place work to address this where necessary.

Crimes of Violence: Knives

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people in each youth offending team area were *(a)* assaulted with a knife and *(b)* killed in a knife attack in each year since 1997. [308099]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Crimes of Violence: Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* offences involving violence against the person, *(b)* violent sexual offences and *(c)* offences of robbery with violence there were in each basic command unit of the Sussex police force area in each year from 2002-03 to 2008-09. [308454]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data for all BCUs across this period are given in tables A to C. Table A contains the data on violence against the person offences, table B contains the data on sexual offences and table C contains the data on robbery offences.

The Basic Command Unit (BCU) structure in Sussex has changed across this period, as reflected in the tables.

The terms 'violent sexual offences' and 'robbery with violence' do not correspond to recognised Home Office offence categories. Figures are given for 'sexual offences' and 'robbery', which are Home Office categories.

Table A: Violence against the person offences recorded by Sussex police by BCU (Basic Command Unit), 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

	Violence against the person offences						
BCU name[2]	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Brighton and Hove	4,591	4,040	6,287	7,069	7,628	6,549	5,213
East Downs[3]	2,292	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Downs	n/a	3,635	5,536	5,441	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Sussex	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9,284	7,885	6,343
Gatwick	106	241	459	555	342	403	238
Hastings and Rother	3,010	3,238	4,186	4,140	n/a	n/a	n/a
Highdown	2,923	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Downs	n/a	3,492	4,607	4,732	5,008	4,154	3,634
Weald	1,497	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Downs	n/a	4,854	6,018	5,930	6,356	6,091	4,838
Western	1,599	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	16,018	19,500	27,093	27,867	28,618	25,082	20,266

Table B: Sexual offences recorded by Sussex police by BCU (Basic Command Unit), 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

	Sexual offences						
BCU name[2]	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Brighton and Hove	214	290	438	402	330	282	328
East Downs[3]	147	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Downs	n/a	185	369	284	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Sussex	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	538	446	437
Gatwick	6	12	7	14	19	10	3
Hastings and Rother	225	167	279	265	n/a	n/a	n/a
Highdown	185	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Downs	n/a	263	309	305	320	248	277
Weald	200	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Downs	n/a	284	399	389	409	341	333
Western	106	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	1,083	1,201	1,801	1,659	1,616	1,327	1,378

Table C: Robbery offences recorded by Sussex police by BCU (Basic Command Unit), 2002-03 to 2008-09[1]

	Robbery offences						
BCU name[2]	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Brighton and Hove	464	460	462	378	404	356	434
East Downs[3]	220	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Downs	n/a	277	196	168	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Sussex	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	297	231	271
Gatwick	4	3	*	*	*	3	0
Hastings and Rother	286	275	160	170	n/a	n/a	n/a
Highdown	120	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Downs	n/a	185	181	210	139	153	179
Weald	102	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Downs	n/a	225	228	170	165	156	150
Western	49	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	1,245	1,425	1,228	1,098	1,007	899	1,034

n/a = Not available

[1] The information presented complies with the National Statistics Code of Practice for Data Access and Confidentiality. In order to protect confidentiality, all counts lower than three have been suppressed. Other counts may be suppressed to protect confidentiality. These are denoted by an asterisk symbol in the cell.

[2] The BCU structure in Sussex has changed across this period.

[3] Before April 2003

Detention Centres: Children

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support his Department provides to young children detained in immigration removal centres. [310110]

Mr. Woolas: Three immigration removal centres in the UK can accommodate families with children. Dungavel House routinely accommodates family groups for approximately 72 hours and Tinsley House for approximately 24 hours. Where detention is likely to extend beyond this timeframe, families are transferred to Yarl's Wood, which has facilities to support longer periods of detention. These include:

A comprehensive welfare framework to support family members;

Access to onsite independent social workers and registered counsellors;

An Ofsted inspected crèche and school classrooms delivering 30 hours per week of tuition by qualified teachers for children aged five to 16 years;

A crèche staffed seven days a week from nine to five by appropriately qualified child care professionals for children under school age.

In addition to structured activities, children are able to voice concerns using dedicated complaints forms and can participate in a fortnightly children's forum. The centres provide internet and telephone facilities to enable children to keep in touch with friends in the community.

All immigration removal centres provide free onsite primary health care to the same level of care as NHS general practices in the community. Referrals to local hospitals for secondary care are made as medically required. Yarl's Wood provides dedicated services to meet the needs of families and children including a paediatric nurse, health and midwife visitors, weight and immunisation clinics which are able to prescribe malarial prophylaxis for identified risk groups, access to children's acute mental health services (CAMH) and counselling services.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were detained in immigration removal centres in 2008. [310111]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information is not available; however, in August 2009 the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical publication was expanded to include, for the first quarters of 2009, information on persons entering detention, total number of persons leaving detention and the number of families with children held in detention. This information is available split by age (to separately identify children), and will continue to be published quarterly in the future; however data for earlier years will remain unavailable.

Information on the number of children under the age of 18 entering detention solely under Immigration Act powers in Q1 to Q3 2009 by age and country of nationality is available in

Q1 and Q2 2009

Table 8a and 8b of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq209.pdf

and Tables G and H of the supplementary tables at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq209supp.xls

Q3 2009

Table 9 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq309.pdf

and Table H of the supplementary tables at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immiq309supp.xls

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

DNA: Databases

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of those arrested in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006, *(d)* 2007 and *(e)* 2008 and subsequently convicted of an offence in circumstances where there was a match with the National DNA Database were persons who had never previously been convicted or cautioned for a criminal offence. [306652]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 16 December 2009]:* Information on the proportion of people arrested with no previous convictions or cautions who have subsequently been convicted following a match on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is not available from the NDNAD. The NDNAD holds DNA profiles taken from persons arrested for a recordable offence but does not hold data on their criminal histories or on the outcome of the police investigation following a match on the NDNAD; this information is held on the Police National Computer (PNC). The information sought could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Some research information is, however, available on the number of DNA profiles taken from those arrested but not charged and from those arrested, charged but not convicted of an offence that have resulted in a DNA match, thus providing the police with an intelligence link on the possible identity of the offender and assisting in the detection of crimes. In April 2004, an amendment to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 came into effect which enabled the police to take and retain DNA and fingerprints from persons who had been arrested for a recordable offence. In the period April 2004 to December 2005, the retention of DNA profiles of arrested persons who had not been charged or proceeded against had resulted in matches with crime scene profiles from over 3,000 offences.

In May 2001, an amendment to PACE 1984 came into effect which enabled the police to retain DNA samples taken from persons who had been charged but not convicted of an offence. In the period May 2001 to December 2005, an estimated 200,000 DNA samples taken from people charged with offences were retained on the NDNAD, which would previously have had to be removed because of the absence of a conviction. From these, approximately 8,500 profiles of individuals have been linked with crime scene profiles, involving nearly 14,000 offences.

Some further research in 2009 has also looked at this issue. A research project on DNA retention looked at 818 matches in 2008-09, of which at least 639 were for murder, manslaughter and rape crimes, and at the 639 subject profiles involved in these matches. The results showed that 69 subject profiles (11 per cent.) from the 639 matches for serious crimes belonged to individuals who did not have a conviction at the time of the match but whose DNA had been retained on the NDNAD. This research considered only those matches where the loading of the crime scene DNA profile resulted in an immediate match with an existing subject profile, and does not include those matches where the subject profile was loaded after the crime scene profile. It therefore shows the value of retaining DNA subject profiles.

A 'match' means that DNA from material found at a crime scene matches a DNA profile from a known individual. A detection, prosecution or conviction does not necessarily follow from a match, as the person's presence at the crime scene could have been for innocent reasons, or it may not have been possible or sensible for a number of reasons to take an investigation of the match forward.

Domestic Violence

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has commissioned to uncover the extent of domestic violence against women. [308151]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office funds the British Crime Survey (BCS) a nationally representative survey of adults resident in households in England and Wales. The survey asks about crimes that have been experienced in the last 12 months including those not reported to or recorded by the police. The BCS collects information on domestic violence both through face-to-face interviews and self-completion methods. The latest findings, including breakdowns by sex, are available in the Crime in England and Wales 2008-09 report, which is available at the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109vol1.pdf

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps his Department has taken to support women who are subject to domestic violence. [308152]

Mr. Alan Campbell: On 25 November, the Government launched 'Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls: A Strategy'. As part of the Strategy, the Government have committed to continuing their investment in specific domestic violence services such as national helplines, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs). Over £5 million will be invested in 2010-11 in IDVAs and the further roll-out of MARACs.

The strategy also commits to developing a new online directory of Violence Against Women and Girls services, which will include services for victims of domestic violence.

Driving

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which (i) his Department and (ii) one of its executive agencies is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) his Department and (B) one of its executive agency have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302165]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office policy on fleet management and operations, including the use of private vehicles, requires that all staff present their driving licences for checking at least once per annum. This is shortly to be increased to a twice per annum check.

Where official vehicles are used then the Home Office self-insures these as permitted under the Road Traffic Act 1988, Section 143. Where private vehicles are used then staff members must have management approval to drive on official business and must present a valid insurance certificate which provides indemnity against all third party claims arising for injury or death of third parties or damage to property.

Home Office policy, currently managed by HM Prison Service but transferring in to Home Office this month, requires that any staff involved in an accident must report the facts to their line manager within 24 hours. All accidents are required to be investigated at local business unit level.

Staff are advised of their requirement to comply with current legislation with regard to driving through policy and a driver safety leaflet is provided to business units to issue to drivers.

Home Office policy on driving at work is currently under review and is being revised to maintain its currency with legislation.

Drugs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made by his Department in its review of legal highs commissioned earlier this year. [308721]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In March this year, my predecessor commissioned the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) to undertake a review of so called "legal highs" or new psychoactive substances, and provide advice on their harms and availability. The first output of this work was the ACMD's advice on synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists found in smoking products such as "Spice" which, following approval of Parliament, have been controlled as class B drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 since the 23 December 2009. The ACMD's review continues, with its consideration of the cathinone group of substances, which includes mephedrone, as its next priority.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 220-22W, on entry clearances, if he will provide equivalent statistics for *(a)* January and *(b)* February 2009. [309806]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: The requested information for January and February is provided as follows. In addition the figures provided for the period March-October have been updated.

	(a) Tier one (general)		*(b) Tier one (post study)*		*(d) Tier two (ICT)*		*(f) Tier four (child)*		*(f) Tier four (general)*		*(g) Tier five youth mobility*	
2009	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*
January	639	2,281	2,051	319	185	1,002	—	—	—	—	—	1,890
February	1,025	2,024	4,556	375	503	1,461	—	—	—	—	—	1,560

2009	*(a) Tier one (general)*		*(b) Tier one (post study)*		*(d) Tier two (ICT)*		*(f) Tier four (child)*		*(f) Tier four (general)*		*(g) Tier five youth mobility*	
	IC	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*	*IC*	*OOC*
March	2,491	2,376	4,560	372	573	1,893	15	—	—	—	—	3,306
April	3,238	1,864	1,901	298	478	1,756	367	37	—	957	—	1,169
May	3,357	1,078	1,751	338	585	1,745	694	77	3	4,386	—	2,896
June	2,648	785	2,497	379	831	2,163	1,995	404	11	12,127	—	1,839
July	1,844	560	2,460	300	806	2,009	5,361	1,231	13	30,528	—	1,555
August	1,899	594	1,473	356	528	1,975	5,199	3,101	19	53,572	—	1,101
September	[illegible]	640	1,895	396	463	2,109	6,921	1,000	46	62,006	—	1,124
October	2,459	643	2,441	422	551	1,893	9,170	269	105	24,586	—	1,231

Note:
IC = In-country grants of leave to remain
OOC = Out-of-country visas issued

The table above is based on approved main applications only. These data are not provided under National Statistic protocols. They have been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

Hamas: Internet

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to prevent Hamas's al-Fatah website being accessed by children resident in the UK. [309799]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* We are currently assessing whether there is sufficient evidence to include the al-Fatah website in the list of material provided on a voluntary basis to filtering companies for inclusion in their parental control software.

It would be for the police to decide whether a website reaches the threshold for a notice to be issued under section 3 of the Terrorism Act 2006.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training and guidance first responder agencies have received on how to make a referral to the national referral mechanism on behalf of a potential victim of trafficking; and who has provided it. [309623]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* Guidance on the National Referral Mechanism can be found on the Home Office website:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/humantrafficking005.htm

In addition, a Trafficking Toolkit is available on the Criminal Justice System website, which provides advice and support to all frontline practitioners who may come into contact with victims of human trafficking. Copies of these publications will be made available in the House Library.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has developed mandatory human trafficking training for all staff, which it has made available to other front line agencies. The UK Human Trafficking Centre, in conjunction with the National Policing Improvement Agency, has developed training for police officers. The training covers all forms of human trafficking and has been incorporated into programmes for all new officers as well as specific programmes such as initial detective training and those aimed at police community support officers, domestic violence, roads policing and public protection programmes.

NGO organisations who act as first responders have been chosen specifically for their extensive knowledge and experience in working in the field of human trafficking and often contribute to the training of other agencies.

Human trafficking training for local authorities is delivered either as part of the Local Safeguarding Children Board child trafficking training model or directly by the London Safeguarding Children Board pilot support group to local authorities across the UK.

The Department of Health has issued guidelines to assist professionals and services to identify and respond to the needs of sexually abused and exploited victims, including those who have been trafficked into and within the UK. The Trafficking Toolkit, available on the Criminal Justice System, also provides specific guidance to NHS professionals.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many referrals of potential victims of trafficking have been made to the National Referral Mechanism at the UK Human Trafficking Centre between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009; and which agencies made such referrals. [309665]

Mr. Woolas: Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009 there have been 289 referrals made to the Competent Authority within the UK Human Trafficking Centre. The referrals were made by the following agencies:

Agency	*Number of referrals*
Police	166
Local authorities	[1]57
Poppy	27
Kalayaan	19
TARA	9
Migrant Helpline	8
CPS	2
NHS	1
Total	289

[1] One of these cases was incorrectly referred to UKBA by the local authority.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many potential victims of trafficking who received no decision on their referral to the National Referral Mechanism since 1 April 2009 have subsequently gone missing. [309667]

Mr. Woolas: Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009 there have been seven suspended cases where the individual has either absconded or gone missing prior to the reasonable grounds decision being made.

During the same period 18 cases have also been withdrawn as the individual intended to leave the UK prior to the reasonable grounds decision being made.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the people who have received a positive conclusive grounds decision from the National Referral Mechanism since 1 April 2009 were *(a)* granted a residence permit or any other form of leave to remain and *(b)* left the UK through (i) voluntary return and (ii) other means. [309669]

Mr. Woolas: From the cases referred into the National Referral Mechanism between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009, 85 have received positive conclusive grounds decisions. Of these 85 decisions, 30 have been granted a residence permit or other form of leave to remain and 40 are EU or British nationals whose stay in the UK is not subject to immigration control. Tracking victims beyond the reflection and recovery period is limited if there is no longer a risk to their safety or health and they have the right to remain in the UK (UK and EEA victims in particular). This makes it difficult to confirm the numbers of voluntary returns in this category. There is currently no record of any enforced return of individuals conclusively found to be victims of trafficking returned to their own country.

Humberside Police

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of Humberside police force has been in each year since 2000. [309766]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested can be found in the following table.

We announced details of the police grant settlement for 2010-11 on 26 November 2009. Humberside police authority is now in a position to consider their final budget for 2010-11.

Humberside police force budget 2000-01 to 2009-10

	Budget requirement (£ million)	Budget change (percentage)
2000-01	118.9	4.0
2001-02	128.2	7.8
2002-03	131.6	2.7
2003-04	141.9	7.9
2004-05	150.4	5.9
2005-06[1]	152.0	-3.1
2006-07	158.0	4.0
2007-08	164.9	4.3
2008-09	169.6	2.9
2009-10	175.0	3.1

[1] 2005-06 figures have been adjusted for purposes of comparison with future years following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006-07.

Licensing Laws: Councillors

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable is for the commencement of the provisions in the Policing and Crime Act 2009 to make councillors interested parties for the purposes of the Licensing Act 2003. [308405]

Mr. Alan Campbell: We plan to commence: section 28 (persistent sales to children - "three strikes to two strikes"); section 29 (confiscation of alcohol from under 18's); section 30 (new offence of persistently possessing alcohol in a public place by under 18s); section 31 (extending directions to leave to those aged 10 or over), and section 33 (allowing licensing authorities to act as interested parties) from Friday 29 January 2010.

We are currently developing the guidance on the young people provisions and the licensing authorities as interested parties provisions, so that the police, local authorities and youth services are aware of the new powers, how they work and fit together. The guidance will be ready by the end of January.

Police National Computer: Wales

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people resident in *(a)* Islwyn constituency, *(b)* Gwent and *(c)* Wales who have not been convicted of a crime have their details on the Police National Computer. [308150]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Police National Computer (PNC) is an operational tool and is not designed to produce the information requested. To obtain the information would incur a disproportionate cost as software would need to be designed, produced and tested to interrogate the PNC.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals in UK prisons have received payments in respect of their return to their country of origin in the last three years; and what recent estimate has been made of the number of such foreign nationals who subsequently returned to the UK. [309948]

Mr. Woolas: The chief executive of the UK Border Agency regularly writes to the Home Affairs Committee to give the most robust and accurate information. She intends to update the Committee on the Facilitated Returns Scheme in January this year.

Measures are in place at the borders to stop the re-entry of such individuals who are subject to deportation or exclusion orders.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria the Serious and Organised Crime Agency uses to determine whether an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has received a tainted gift. [308310]

Mr. Alan Campbell: When acting as a Law Enforcement Agency in the conduct of a criminal confiscation investigation, SOCA operates under the legislative parameters set out in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA). Section 77 of POCA (section 225 in relation to Northern Ireland) sets out the criteria used to assess whether a gift, either to an individual or organisation, is tainted.

Security

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the most serious non-state threats to UK security. [310504]

Mr. Hanson: The assessment of serious non-state threats to the UK is under constant review.

The revised version of CONTEST, published in March 2009, is our counter-terrorism strategy and provides a comprehensive assessment of threat from international terrorism.

An updated version of The National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom, 'Security for the Next Generation', was published in June 2009. The National Security Strategy sets out our assessment of the full range of security challenges the UK faces and our response to them.

In summer 2008, the Government published a national-level risk register which sets out our assessment of the likelihood and potential impact of a range of different risks that may directly affect the United Kingdom.

Sussex Police: Detection Rates

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rate of the Sussex police force has been in each year since 1996-97. [309115]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is given in the table.

It should be noted that non-sanction detections which contribute to the overall detection rates have fallen in recent years reflecting a significant shift by many police forces away from recording detections where no further action is taken. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very limited set of circumstances. For these reasons overall detection rates over time are not fully comparable.

Detection rates are a ratio of crime detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected.

Overall detection rate for offences recorded by the police in Sussex

Period	*Detection rate (Percentage)*
1996	29
1997	26
1997-98	26
1998-99[1]	25
1999-2000[2]	25
2000-01	23
2001-02	25
2002-03[3]	24
2003-04	24
2004-05	25
2005-06	30
2006-07	31
2007-08	32
2008-09	26

[1] The percentage of crimes detected in that financial year using the expanded coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.

[2] New instructions which clarified the rules for detecting crime were introduced on 1 April 1999.

[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in 2002-03. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Young Offenders

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data his Department collects on youth crime at middle layer super output area level; and where such data are published. [309515]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office does not collect any information on youth crime at middle super output area level as no recorded crime statistics are collected centrally on the age of either the victim or the alleged offender.

Some police recorded crime data in terms of the number of offences recorded at middle super output area level have been released as experimental statistics on the Neighbourhood Statistics website at:

http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk

The most recent data currently published are for 2005-06, but it is planned to update the site in late 2010 with more recent crime data for the same/similar categories covering the majority of police forces in England and Wales.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the submission made by English Heritage in relation to the Downing Street listed building works with planning application reference 09/00619/LBC. [308694]

Margaret Hodge: Westminster city council planning application reference 09/00619/ LBC refers to an application dated 22 January 2009 for listed building consent to refurbish existing ground floor toilets and form an opening to fit equipment to extract air from the existing first floor toilet in 10 Downing Street. English Heritage were notified of the application on 11 February 2009 and replied on 12 March 2009 authorising Westminster city council to determine the application for listed building consent as it saw fit. There was no requirement for English Heritage's specialist advice. A copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Arts Council England

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much was paid to Arts Council England's *(a)* senior managers and *(b)* board members in (i) performance-related and (ii) special bonus payments in each of the last three years; for what reason each such bonus was paid; how many members of the senior management team refused to accept a bonus; and by what criteria such bonuses are awarded; [310196]

(2) how much was paid to Arts Council England employees in *(a)* performance-related and *(b)* special bonus payments in each of the last three years; [310197]

(3) how many Arts Council England employees have participated in its special leave scheme in each of the last three years; [310200]

(4) how much Arts Council England intends to spend on the establishment of relaxation rooms for staff at its head office in Great Peter Street, London; [310201]

(5) how much Arts Council England has spent on employing Lothar Gotz to redecorate its head office in Great Peter Street, London; [310202]

(6) for what reason Arts Council England is to commission new artwork for its head office in Great Peter Street, London; how much Arts Council England has spent on advertising for such works; and if he will make a statement. [310203]

(7) what the cost to Arts Council England of public opinion research was in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09; and how much such funding it has allocated for 2009-10; [309620]

(8) how much Arts Council England spent on the advertisement of tenders for contracts in the last five years; [309621]

(9) how much Arts Council England has spent on media monitoring in each of the last three years; [309772]

(10) which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for Arts Council England in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was; [309774]

(11) how much Arts Council England has spent on advertising in *(a)* weekly and *(b)* regional newspapers in the last five years; [309776]

(12) how many complaints Arts Council England received from members of the public in each of the last five years. [309785]

(13) how many Arts Council England staff have *(a)* been reprimanded, *(b)* had their contract of employment terminated and *(c)* been prosecuted for theft of property in each of the last three years; [309771]

(14) how much Arts Council England paid to recruitment agencies for the recruitment of temporary staff in each of the last five years; [309773]

(15) how much Arts Council England has spent on staff reward and recognition schemes in each of the last three years; [309777]

(16) how many Arts Council England employees have the word diversity in their job title; [309814]

(17) what flexible working arrangements were available to Arts Council England staff in each of the last five years; and how many staff participated in such arrangements in each such year; [309815]

(18) how many communication officers Arts Council England employs; and what the cost of their salaries was in 2008-09; [309816]

(19) how many Arts Council England employees have the word communication in their job title; [309817]

(20) how many Arts Council England staff participated in its employee relocation scheme in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of such arrangements in each such year; [309818]

(21) how many Arts Council England employees used the organisation's car allowance scheme in each of the last three years; and what the cost of the scheme was in each of those years; [309819]

(22) what the cost of essential car user lump sum payments to Arts Council England employees was for each vehicle engine size in each of the last three years; [309820]

(23) what the *(a)* job description and *(b)* salary scale is of each employee of Arts Council England's senior management team; [309821]

(24) how many Arts Council England employees received finance loans to buy a *(a)* car, *(b)* scooter and *(c)* bicycle in each of the last three years; and what the cost of providing such loans was in each of those years; [309822]

(25) on how many occasions Arts Council England's whistleblowing procedure has been used in each of the last three years; when that policy was last reviewed; and if he will make a statement; [309823]

(26) what steps Arts Council England is taking to prevent bullying in its workplace on grounds of *(a)* religion, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* sexual orientation; and how much Arts Council England plans to spend on such programmes in the next 12 months; [309889]

(27) how many Arts Council England staff have been subject to *(a)* stage 1, *(b)* stage 2 and *(c)* stage 3 performance capability meetings in each of the last five years; and what proportion of such meetings have resulted in (i) a dismissal and (ii) a subsequent appeal against dismissal by a member of staff; [309896]

(28) how many diversity officers Arts Council England employs; and what the total cost of their annual salaries was in the latest year for which information is available; [309897]

(29) how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff Arts Council England employs in each region. [309898]

(30) how much Arts Council England has spent on legal fees in each of the last five years; [309775]

(31) how many complaints Arts Council England received in response to answers it provided under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in each year for which figures are available. [309786]

(32) what is most recent estimate is of the monetary value of Arts Council England's property portfolio. [309780]

(33) how many items are in Arts Council England's Arts Council Collection; how many of these items are on public display; and what the cost of storing items belonging to the collection was in the latest year for which information is available; [309891]

(34) how many items Arts Council England has purchased for its Arts Council Collection in each of the last three years; and how many such items are on public display; [309892]

(35) how many works belonging to Arts Council England's Arts Council Collection have been damaged *(a)* in transit and *(b)* at exhibition in each of the last five years; [309894]

(36) how much revenue Arts Council England generated from loaning items from the Arts Council Collection in each of the last three years; [309893]

(37) how many works belonging to Arts Council England's Arts Council Collection have been stolen in each of the last five years. [309895]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich East. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the total cost of Arts Council England's Arts Jobs website has been to date; [309618]

(2) how much Arts Council England spent on *(a)* Christmas parties and *(b)* staff entertainment in the last three years; [309778]

(3) how much Arts Council England spent on Christmas cards in each of the last three years; [309779]

(4) how much has been spent by Arts Council England on the acquisition of properties in each of the last five years; what the *(a)* address, *(b)* cost and *(c)* date of acquisition was of each such property; how much has been realised by Arts Council England from the disposal of properties in each of the last five years; and what the (i) address, (ii) sale price and (iii) date of sale of each was; [309781]

(5) which *(a)* food and *(b)* drinks companies Arts Council England has contracted in each of the last three years; and how much Arts Council England has paid to each such company in each such year; [309782]

(6) how many *(a)* drinks receptions and *(b)* dinner parties Arts Council England has hosted in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each such event was; [309783]

(7) how much Arts Council England has spent on the design of its website in each of the last five years. [309784]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department. The issues raised are the operational responsibility of Arts Council England.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive to write direct to my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson). Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what works from the Government Art Collection are being used by Arts Council England. [309890]

Margaret Hodge: There are no Government Art Collection works of art being used by Arts Council England.

Arts Council England: Occupational Pensions

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 665W, on Arts Council England: finance, whether Arts Council England may *(a)* use proceeds from the National Lottery and *(b)* grant-in-aid funding from his Department to reduce its pension fund deficit; and if he will make a statement. [308368]

Margaret Hodge: Issues such as pay and pensions are operational matters for Arts Council England.

However, as part of the administrative costs associated with its role as a national lottery distributor, and in accordance with the National Lottery Act, Arts Council England (ACE) may use proceeds from the national lottery to defray any expenses incurred by it, provided such expenses have been incurred as a result of ACE's national lottery work.

ACE may use grant in aid funding to reduce its pension fund deficit.

Bell Towers: Expenditure

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what bell towers have received grants from public funds in the last 12 months. [308850]

Margaret Hodge: Funds are available from public sources to support repairs to bell towers where they are part of listed church buildings.

English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund jointly operate a grant scheme to support repairs to listed places of worship. Additionally, the Government operates a Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme that makes grants equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings primarily in use as places of worship.

However data are not available under either scheme about the amounts disbursed for works to bell towers, or the locations of bell towers that have benefited.

Casinos

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects the proposed new and large casinos to be opened. [310084]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This is not a matter for central Government. It is the responsibility of the 16 local authorities permitted to offer new casino premises licences under the Gambling Act 2005 to determine the timetable for the opening of the proposed new small and large casinos.

Departmental Computers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which websites his Department's staff are blocked from accessing on departmental networked computers. [310053]

Mr. Simon: My Department uses SmartFilter to block access to web sites which are deemed unsuitable. The following categories of sites are blocked.

Anonymizers
Criminal Activities
Game/Cartoon Violence
Drugs
Extreme
Hate/Discrimination
Illegal Software
Malicious Sites
Nudity
Provocative Attire
Phishing
P2P/File Sharing
Spam URLs
Pornography
Spyware/Adware
Tobacco
Gruesome Content
Violence

Two sites blocked that do not fall into these categories are:

www.filthyjokes.freeserve.co.uk
internationallottobv.net

My Department blocks certain sites based on central guidance about potential threats, as is standard practice on security matters we do not publish this list.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what expenditure his Department incurred on external consultancy fees in each of the last five years. [309742]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: The table shows the total expenditure incurred on external consultancy fees in each of the last five years.

	£
2009-10[1]	622,140.47
2008-09	1,219,866.54
2007-08	1,162,919.27
2006-07	886,190.79
2005-06	1,161,338.03

[1] To date only

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by his Department and what the staffing cost for press officers has been in each of the last five years. [309740]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: The number of press officers currently employed by the Department is 11.

The cost for press officers in each of the last five years were:

	Cost of press officers (£)
2004-05	466,206
2005-06	[1]550,124
2006-07	[1]733,412
2007-08	[1]682,858
2008-09	[1]706,643

[1] This includes press officers working on the Olympics.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of his Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the cost of the survey was. [309839]

Margaret Hodge: DCMS will be publishing its October 2009 staff survey results on the DCMS website in April 2010. Following publication we will place a copy of the results in the Library.

The supplier for the DCMS staff survey in October 2009 was ORC International who were procured by Cabinet Office to deliver the first cross-civil service People Survey.

The People Survey replaced all existing staff surveys in the civil service with a single questionnaire.

The cost of the 2009-10 People Survey for DCMS was £8,796.56. By procuring a single supplier for staff surveys in 2009-10 the civil service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008-09.

Gambling

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what steps the Gambling Commission is taking to seek to ensure that the licensing objectives are not adversely affected by the use by UK customers of online gambling companies operating in non-EEA white listed countries; [310114]

(2) what factors are taken into account by the Government in deciding whether to permit a gambling operator based outside the EEA to apply for a place on the white list; [310118]

(3) what recent assessment has been made of the effects on the regulation of operators of online gambling services who are located outside the United Kingdom of the operation of the white list system; [310138]

(4) what recent steps the Gambling Commission has taken to increase the effectiveness of the regulation of online gambling; [310139]

(5) what steps he is taking to ensure that UK-registered online gambling operators which are located outside the UK contribute to the cost of research, education and treatment in respect of problem gambling; [310151]

(6) what recent steps the Gambling Commission has taken to assess the effects on the promotion of the licensing objectives of online gambling; and how much funding has been allocated to the Gambling Commission for the purpose of making such assessments in the last five years; [310152]

(7) what powers the Gambling Commission have to *(a)* regulate and *(b)* sanction an operator of online gambling services in circumstances where the operator is located outside the United Kingdom. [310255]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I laid a written statement before the House on 7 January outlining proposals, and announcing a consultation, for the future regulation of remote gambling in Great Britain.

The Statement, which can be found online at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/media_releases/6562.aspx

recognises that whilst there are protections in place for British consumers gambling online with operators based outside Britain, there are differences in the approach of other regulators in respect of regulatory standards and requirements when compared to those required by the Gambling Commission.

I have therefore decided to consult on changing the existing system, so that all operators who want to target British consumers have to adhere to the provisions of the Gambling Act, its secondary legislation and the Gambling Commission's standards. This would include a requirement for operators to set out how they will contribute towards research, education and treatment of problem gambling in the UK. I expect the consultation to include consideration of issues relating to the white list, which has been temporarily closed to new applications since 30 April 2009 when my Department began to look in detail at these issues.

I shall ask the chief executive of the Gambling Commission to write to the hon. Member about the steps the Commission has already taken to increase the effectiveness of the regulation of online gambling; the allocation of funding to assess the effect of online gambling on the promotion of the licensing objectives; and the powers it has available to regulate and sanction online operators based outside of Britain. Copies of the response will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Gambling Act 2005

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many prosecutions have been made as a result of complaints made to his Department under the chain-gifting provisions of the Gambling Act 2005. [309483]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has not received any complaints under the chain-gifting sections in the Gambling Act 2005. The Ministry of Justice advise that from 2005 to 2007, the years for which information is available, no court proceedings at the magistrates court in England and Wales were recorded on this issue.

Gambling: Crime

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Gambling Commission has taken to *(a)* estimate the monetary value of the illegal gambling market and *(b)* reduce the incidence of illegal gambling. [310115]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is a matter for the Gambling Commission. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive to write to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster). Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the performance of the Gambling Commission on tackling illegal gambling. [310117]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I regularly receive representations, both verbal and written, from trade associations and individual businesses within the gambling industry about a range of issues relating to gambling regulation, including the Gambling Commission's role in relation to tackling illegal gambling.

Gaming Machines: Taxation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* the Gambling Commission on the tax status of category B3A gaming machines. [309855]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have not had any discussions with HM Treasury or the Gambling Commission about category B3A gaming machines. I am aware that representations have been made to the Government in relation to the tax status of these machines. However, issues regarding taxation are a matter for my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Horse Racing: Betting

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the long-term future of the horserace betting levy. [309615]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I meet regularly with chair and chief executive of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, most recently on 28 October 2009, and I will do so again later this month. A modernised and appropriate funding mechanism is important for the purpose of securing the long-term future of British horse racing. However, my view is also that the levy must continue until there is a viable alternative to replace it.

Licensed Premises

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many licensed premises there were per 1,000 of population in each London borough in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [310291]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Statistical Bulletin collects the number of premises licences and club premises certificates issued under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.

The following table shows this by individual London borough (licensing authority) as at 31 March 2007, 2008 and 2009 per 1,000 total population.

Premises licences and club premises certificates per thousand population

	31 March each year		
Local authority name	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Barking and Dagenham	2.1	2.3	2.5
Barnet	2.7	2.8	3.9
Bexley	2.4	2.4	2.4

Premises licences and club premises certificates per thousand population

	31 March each year		
Local authority name	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Brent	3.0	2.9	3.1
Bromley	2.6	4.1	3.0
Camden	n/a	6.6	6.8
City of London Corporation (including Middle and Inner Temple)	84.1	90.4	91.5
Croydon	2.8	3.0	3.0
Ealing	2.9	2.9	3.1
Enfield	2.5	2.6	2.7
Greenwich	2.9	3.3	3.5
Hackney	3.7	4.0	4.4
Hammersmith and Fulham	4.5	4.4	5.0
Haringey	3.2	3.5	4.1
Harrow	2.4	2.5	2.4
Havering	2.1	2.3	2.3
Hillingdon	3.1	3.1	3.1
Hounslow	n/a	3.3	3.4
Islington	6.2	5.8	6.3
Kensington and Chelsea	5.6	5.5	5.5
Kingston upon Thames	3.0	3.4	3.4
Lambeth	4.1	4.3	4.6
Lewisham	2.9	3.0	3.2
Merton	2.6	2.9	2.8
Newham	2.7	2.9	3.0
Redbridge	2.2	2.4	2.4
Richmond upon Thames	4.3	4.5	4.4
Southwark	n/a	4.0	4.2
Sutton	2.3	2.3	2.5
Tower Hamlets	3.6	3.9	4.2
Waltham Forest	2.7	3.3	3.4
Wandsworth	3.7	3.7	3.7
Westminster	12.5	12.6	12.9
London total	3.2	3.8	4.0

The number of licences in 2007 have been adjusted by Mid-2007 Population estimates (produced by the Office of National Statistics). The number of licences in 2008 and 2009 have both been adjusted by Mid-2008 Population estimates (latest available estimates). Camden, Hounslow, Middle Temple and Southwark did not submit a response in the 2007 collection, so their numbers of licences in this year is unknown.

Olympic Games 2012: Facilities

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the starting gate review of the 2012 Sports Legacy plans will be published; and if he will place a copy in the Library on publication. [310374]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The OGC Starting Gate review was carried out for my Department on the basis of confidential discussions. We have provided copies of the report to those who participated in the process, but have no current plans to publish it.

Policing and Crime Act 2009

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to make an order to commence section 33 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009. [309373]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This is a matter for the Home Office who have advised that they plan to commence sections 28, 29, 30, 31 and 33 on the 29 January.

They are currently developing the guidance to accompany these provisions which will be released in late January/early February 2010.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Sick Leave

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many working days were lost due to illness of employees within her Department in each of the last three years; and how many of those were attributed to stress in each year. [310229]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office established its present electronic Performance Management System in October 2008. Prior to this, records were not kept centrally. For the period 6 October 2008 until 31 December 2009 the Government Equalities Office recorded 211 working days lost due to illness of employees and 26 of these days were attributed to stress.

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how much has been spent by the Central Office of Information on news and public relations in 2009-10; [309830]

(2) how much the Central Office of Information has spent on strategic consultancy in each year from 2004-05 to 2008-09; [309833]

(3) how much the Central Office of Information spent on public relations in each of the last five years; [309937]

(4) how much the Central Office of Information spent on *(a)* media and *(b)* non-media advertising in each of the last five years. [309842]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 7 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on COI Turnover (309830,3,7,42).

COI turnover figures for the areas requested for the previous five years are published in our annual report and accounts.

Copies of the COI Annual Report and Accounts are placed in the Library of the House and are also available from our website:

www.coi.gov.uk

Central Office of Information: Publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* total cost and *(b)* printing cost was of the Central Office of Information's book, How Public Sector Advertising Works. [309846]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the honourable Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 7 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on the cost of the book, How Public Sector Advertising Works (309846).

The total cost of producing the book was £70,000.

A separate printing cost is not available but is included in the Publishing cost which was £24,000.

Death: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the 10 most frequently recorded causes of death for *(a)* men, *(b)* women, *(c)* boys under the age of 18 years and *(d)* girls under the age of 18 years in Stroud constituency were in each of the last 10 years. [309129]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated December 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the 10 most frequently recorded causes of death for (a) men, (b) women, (c) boys under the age of 18 years and (d) girls under the age of 18 years in Stroud constituency were in each of the last 10 years. (309129)

The tables attached present the 10 most frequently recorded causes of death[1] for (a) males aged 18 years and over (Table 1) and (b) females aged 18 years and over (Table 2), in Stroud parliamentary constituency, for the years 2001 to 2008 (the latest year available).

Due to the small numbers of deaths of (c) boys under the age of 18 years and (d) girls under the age of 18 years, equivalent information for frequently recorded causes of death could not be produced.

Individual causes of death are coded by ONS using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The causes of death shown in the tables are groups of codes designed for the tabulation of deaths according to 'main' causes[2]. Equivalent information is not readily available for years before 2001, when an earlier version of the International Classification of Diseases was in use.

[1] In some years, more than 10 causes of death are presented where the numbers of deaths were the same as those for the 10th most frequent cause.

[2] Griffiths, C, Rooney, C, and Brock, A. (2005) 'Leading causes of death in England and Wales—how should we group causes?' Health Statistics Quarterly 28, 6-17.

Table 1: Most frequent causes of death classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), males aged 18 years and over, Stroud parliamentary constituency, 2001-08[1, 2, 3]

Cause of death[4]	Years when this was a main cause of death for males								ICD-10 Codes
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Aortic aneurysm and dissection	—	—	—	•	—	•	—	•	I71
Cerebrovascular diseases	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	I60-I69
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	J40-J47
Dementia and Alzheimer's disease	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	F01, F03, G30
Diabetes	•	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	E10-E14
Heart failure and complications and ill-defined heart disease	•	•	—	—	—	—	—	—	I50-I51
Influenza and pneumonia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	J10-J18
Ischaemic heart diseases	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	I20-I25
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of colon, sigmoid, rectum and anus	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	C18-C21
Malignant (cancer) neoplasm of oesophagus	—	—	—	—	•	—	•	—	C15
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of pancreas	—	—	•	—	—	—	—	—	C25
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of prostate	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	C61
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of trachea, bronchus and lung	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	C33-C34
Malignant neoplasms (cancer) of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	C81-C96
Parkinson's disease	—	•	—	—	—	—	•	—	G20
Suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent	—	—	—	—	•	—	—	—	X60-X84, Y10-Y34 exc. Y33.9

[1] Most frequent causes of death recorded as the underlying cause in male deaths registered in the year in question. These causes accounted for 65 per cent. of all male deaths in Stroud parliamentary constituency between 2001 and 2008.

[2] Cause of death in England and Wales is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards.

[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.

[4] The words in brackets have been added for clarity and are not part of the International Classification of Diseases.

Table 2: Most frequent causes of death classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), females aged 18 years and over, Stroud parliamentary constituency, 2001 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

Cause of death[4]	Years when this was a main cause of death for females								ICD-10 Codes
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Cerebrovascular diseases	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	I60-I69
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	J40-J47
Dementia and Alzheimer's disease	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	F01, F03, G30

Table 2: Most frequent causes of death classified according to the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), females aged 18 years and over, Stroud parliamentary constituency, 2001 to 2008[1, 2, 3]

	Years when this was a main cause of death for females								
Cause of death[4]	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*ICD-10 Codes*
Diabetes	•	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	E10-E14
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	—	—	—	•	—	—	—	—	M00-M99
Diseases of the urinary system	—	—	—	—	—	—	•	—	N00-N39
Heart failure and complications and ill-defined heart disease	—	—	•	•	•	—	—	—	I50-I51
Influenza and pneumonia	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	J10-J18
Intestinal infectious diseases	—	—	—	—	—	•	—	—	A00-A09
Ischaemic heart diseases	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	I20-I25
Malignant [illegible]plasm (cancer) of colon, sig[illegible] rectum and anus	•	•	•	—	•	•	—	•	C18-C21
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of ovary	—	•	—	—	—	—	—	—	C56
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of pancreas	—	—	—	•	—	•	•	—	C25
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of trachea, bronchus and lung	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	C33-C34
Malignant neoplasm (cancer) of uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	•	C53-C55
Malignant neoplasms (cancer) of breast	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	C50
Malignant neoplasms (cancer) of lymphoid, haematopoietic and related tissue	•	•	•	•	•	—	•	•	C81-C96

[1] Most frequent causes of death recorded as the underlying cause in female deaths registered in the year in question. These causes accounted for 62 per cent. of all female deaths in Stroud parliamentary constituency between 2001 and 2008.
[2] Cause of death in England and Wales is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) for 2001 onwards.
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[4] The words in brackets have been added for clarity and are not part of the International Classification of Diseases.

Death: Weather

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people have died from injuries and illnesses related to *(a)* cold and *(b)* hot weather in each of the last five years. [310484]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Steve Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people have died from injuries and illnesses related to (a) cold and (b) hot weather in each of the last five years. (310484)

There are no official definitions of 'heat-related' and 'cold-related' deaths. Estimates of the excess deaths during a summer heat wave are calculated only when temperatures remain abnormally high over a sustained period. The most severe heat wave of recent times occurred in August 2003. During July 2006, there were also several days when heat wave threshold temperatures were reached in one or more regions. Table 1 provides the number of excess deaths during these hot periods.

Estimates of excess winter deaths are calculated annually, and are based on the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). It is not possible to say whether these deaths were cold-related. Table 2 provides the number of excess winter deaths that occurred in England and Wales from 2004-05 to 2008-09 (the latest figures available).

Table 1: Excess mortality during periods when temperatures were above the heat wave threshold in one or more regions, England and Wales, 2003-08[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Dates	*Number of excess deaths (persons)*	*Percentage increase in mortality above baseline (percentage)*
4 to 13 August 2003[1, 2]	2,139	16
1 to 7 July 2006[3, 4]	No excess	0
16 to 28 July 2006[3, 4]	680	4

[1] Final data based on deaths occurring each day in this period.
[2] Excess mortality was calculated as observed daily deaths in 2003 minus the baseline (average 1998 to 2002) expected mortality over the same time period.
[3] Estimated data based on deaths occurring each day in this period.
[4] Excess mortality was calculated as observed daily deaths in 2006 minus baseline (average 2001 to 2005) expected mortality over the same time period.
[5] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.

Table 2: Excess winter deaths, England and Wales, 2004-05 to 2008-09[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Excess winter deaths (persons)	*EWD Index*[5]
2004-05	31,640	19.5
2005-06	25,270	15.8
2006-07	23,740	15.0
2007-08	24,690	15.6
2008-09	36,700	23.8

[1] Estimates of excess winter deaths are based on the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July).
[2] Figures are based on deaths occurring in each month.
[3] Figures for 2004-05 to 2007-08 are final, figures for 2008-09 are provisional. Final figures are rounded to the nearest 10, provisional figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
[4] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[5] The excess winter mortality index is calculated as the excess winter deaths divided by the average non-winter deaths, expressed as a percentage.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to the Prime Minister in the last 12 months. [305694]

Angela E. Smith: Cost on the works and refurbishment to offices allocated to the Prime Minister in the last 12 months will be available only when the Department's resource accounts have been fully audited and laid before Parliament.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by her Department. [310535]

Angela E. Smith: Other than one building of 826m^2 which is vacant pending disposal, and 85m^2 of office space at the Emergency Planning College (EPC) in Easingwold, Yorkshire, the Cabinet Office is not responsible for any vacant freehold office space. The agreed sale price of the building being disposed of is £5.37 million. The 85m^2 of office space at the EPC is an integral part of the EPC estate and is not valued separately. The Cabinet Office is responsible for 1,287m^2 of vacant leased office space and the annual rent for this space is £620,000. The vacant space is being marketed towards achieving a disposal.

Population

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what account the 2008 population projections issued by the Office for National Statistics on 21 October 2009 took of recent trends of reductions in *(a)* net migration and *(b)* net migration from the A8 EU member states. [310514]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what account the 2008-based population projections issued by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 21 October 2009 took of recent trends of reductions in (a) net migration and (b) net migration from the A8 EU member states [310514].

The 2008-based national population projections assume future net migration to the UK of +180,000 a year from mid-2014 onwards, with slightly higher net migration assumed for the first few years of the projection period. These assumptions of future net migration are based on past trends in net long-term international migration to the UK and are calculated using a standard methodology first introduced for the 1991-based projections see national population projections reference volume available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=4611

The assumptions for the 2008-based projections are based upon final estimates of long-term international migration up to the end of 2007, plus provisional International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of long-term international migration for the year ending December 2008. Thus the calculation of the assumptions took into account the decline in long-term international net migration indicated by the provisional IPS estimates published by ONS on 27 August 2009.

With regard to net migration from the A8 EU member states, the 2008-based projections assume annual net migration from these countries (plus Bulgaria and Romania) declining from +25,000 for 2009-10 to zero for 2014-15 onwards. Again, the calculation of these assumptions took into account the decline in long-term international net migration from the A8 EU member states indicated by the provisional IPS estimates published by ONS on 27 August 2009.

Valuation Office Agency: Training

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report*, column 55W, on the Valuation Office: training, if she will place in the Library a copy of each document for the Staff Inspection Techniques training course provided by the National School of Government to the Valuation Office Agency. [309393]

Tessa Jowell: This is a matter for the National School of Government. I have asked the principal and chief executive to assist by writing to you.

Letter from Rod Clark, dated January 2010:

In the Written Ministerial Statement to the House on 9 January 2007 (Official Report Col 5WS), the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Pat McFadden MP) announced that the National School of Government was now a Non Ministerial Department. Consequently, the Minister for the Cabinet Office has asked me to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about the National School of Government.

The National School operates in a commercial environment with a business model which requires the full operating costs of the department to be recovered from the products and services provided to clients and customers. The publication of the information requested could prejudice the ability of the department to meet its financial target. I have, therefore, concluded that it would not be helpful to place a copy of the materials in the Library of the House.

I will, however, send this information to you.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Boilers: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with the Scottish Executive on the possible extension to Scotland of the boiler scrappage scheme. [310377]

Joan Ruddock: The Department informed the Scottish Executive of its intention to operate a boiler scrappage scheme in England. As the scheme is an energy efficiency measure it is a devolved matter and it is for the Scottish Executive to take a decision on whether to operate a similar scheme in Scotland.

Energy Efficiency Schemes: Scotland

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with the Scottish Executive the location of the test hubs referred to in the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan. [310546]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has discussed the location of the test hubs referred to in the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan with the Scottish Executive. The Scottish Executive decided, in this case, that the test hubs should not be located in Scotland.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the level of the average household *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity bill; what the average bill was in each case in 1997; and if he will make a statement. [308165]

Mr. Kidney: The Department's latest estimates for the average annual domestic energy bills and provisional estimates for the year to 2009 and are published in 'Quarterly Energy Prices', published in December 2009:

> http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/publications/prices/prices.aspx

For an average consumer using 18,000 kWh of gas per year and paying their bills on receipt (standard credit), the average bill for gas in Great Britain was £328 in 1997 and £717 in 2009. Adjusting for the effects of inflation, in real terms equivalent bills were £349 in 1997 and £574 in 2009 relative to prices in 2000.

For an average consumer using 3,300 kWh of electricity per year and paying their bills on receipt (standard credit), the average bill for electricity in the UK was £285 in 1997 and £461 in 2009. Adjusting for the effects of inflation, in real terms equivalent bills were £303 in 1997 and £369 in 2009 relative to prices in 2000.

UK domestic gas and electricity prices are the lowest and the fourth lowest in the EU15 respectively, with latest figures for the period January to June 2009.

Competitive energy markets are a key element of our energy policy. We think that companies competing for consumers is the most effective way of driving down energy prices. However, we are in close contact with the regulator and are monitoring retail energy markets closely. Government and the regulator between them have a number of potential options and we will be ready to take further action if we believe it is both necessary and in the customers' interests.

Recognising that energy is an essential commodity to vulnerable customers the Government negotiated the current voluntary agreement with suppliers to address the prices aspect of fuel poverty. The voluntary agreement comes to an end in March 2011 however, and we have included powers in the recently introduced Energy Bill to enable us to put social price support on to a statutory footing, building on the success of these voluntary arrangements. As announced in the Pre Budget Report, the Government will require energy suppliers to make available £300 million per annum by 2013-14 .This is double what energy suppliers have agreed to provide in the final year of the voluntary agreement and will mean being able to help more of the vulnerable households with their energy bills.

The Government are also actively promoting energy efficiency measures, as outlined in the Low Carbon Transition Plan:

> http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/publications/lc_trans_plan/lc_trans_plan.aspx

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department has taken to eradicate fuel poverty in 2009; what steps he plans to take in the first six months of 2010; and if he will make a statement. [308167]

Mr. Kidney: The Government have a strong package of measures to help reduce fuel poverty among households. This is centred on tackling the three root causes of fuel poverty:

> Reducing the demand for energy by improving home energy efficiency through schemes such as Warm Front, Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, Community Energy Saving Programme and the Decent Homes Standard.
>
> Ensuring competitive energy prices through a robust system of regulation aimed to protect all consumers.
>
> Raising real incomes, including through winter fuel payments and cold weather payments alongside the wider tax and benefit system and through benefit entitlement checks under the Warm Front scheme.

More specifically, during 2009, the Government have:

> Increased the grant limits for eligible households under the Warm Front scheme to £3,500 (or £6,000 where oil or new low carbon technology is recommended).
>
> Launched the £350 million Community Energy Saving Programme to improve household energy efficiency and permanently lower fuel bills in areas of low income, where households are likely to have a greater than average propensity to be in fuel poverty.
>
> Made changes to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target so that from August 2009 an estimated £1.9 billion will be directed among the priority group of low income and elderly households up to 2011.

In 2010 the Government shall:

> From April, increase the funding for the Warm Front scheme by £150 million to £345 million bringing the total funding to just over £1.1 billion for the current spending period.
>
> Continue to promote legislation to implement mandated social price support schemes once the current voluntary agreement with suppliers comes to an end in 2011. These schemes will provide more of the most vulnerable consumers with help towards their energy costs.
>
> Explore how best to provide help to the most vulnerable households within the Priority Group under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target for the proposed extension from April 2011 to December 2012. A consultation was launched on 21 December 2009.

The Government, through their fuel poverty review, will continue to build and strengthen the evidence base on fuel poverty and explore better ways of targeting help at the most vulnerable fuel poor households.

The Government's new Strategy for Household Energy Management, building on the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy consultation in February 2009, will set out the Government's plans for delivering and financing household energy management to all households, including the most vulnerable.

Furthermore the Government want all households to play a part in generating renewable energy. Although feed-in tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive will make payments over the life of installations, low-income households may still find it difficult to meet upfront costs. Building on the experience of Pay as You Save pilot project, the Government announced in the pre-budget report, that we will consult on measures to help low-income households take advantage of these clean energy cash-back schemes.

Fuel Poverty: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of fuel poverty in Leeds North West constituency. [309390]

Mr. Kidney: The Government have a strong package of measures to help reduce fuel poverty among households. This is centred on tackling the three root causes of fuel poverty:

Reducing the demand for energy by improving home energy efficiency through schemes such as Warm Front, Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, Community Energy Saving programme and the Decent Homes Standard;

Ensuring competitive energy prices through a robust system of regulation aimed to protect all consumers; and

Raising real incomes, including through winter fuel payments and cold weather payments alongside the wider tax and benefit system and through benefit entitlement checks under the Warm Front scheme.

More specifically, during 2009, the Government have:

Increased the grant limits for eligible households under the Warm Front scheme to £3,500 (or £6,000 where oil or new low carbon technology is recommended)

Launched the £350 million Community Energy Saving programme to improve household energy efficiency and permanently lower fuel bills in areas of low income, where households are likely to have a greater than average propensity to be in fuel poverty

Made changes to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target so that from August 2009 an estimated £1.9 billion will be directed amongst the priority group of low income and elderly households up to 2011.

In 2010 the Government shall:

From April, increase the funding for the Warm Front scheme by £150 million to £345 million bringing the total funding to just over £1.1 billion for the current spending period. The scheme assisted 309 homes in 2008-09 in the Leeds North West constituency in the last year alone.

Continue to promote legislation to implement mandated social price support schemes once the current voluntary agreement with suppliers comes to an end in 2011. These schemes will provide more of the most vulnerable consumers with help towards their energy costs.

Explore how best to provide help to the most vulnerable households within the Priority Group under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target for the proposed extension from April 2011 to December 2012. A consultation was launched on 21 December 2009

The Government, through their fuel poverty review, will continue to build and strengthen the evidence base on fuel poverty and explore better ways of targeting help at the most vulnerable fuel poor households.

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Furthermore the Government wants all households to play a part in generating renewable energy. Although feed-in tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive will make payments over the life of installations, low-income households may still find it difficult to meet upfront costs. Building on the experience of Pay as You Save pilot project, the Government announced in the pre-budget report, that we will consult on measures to help low-income households take advantage of these clean energy cash-back schemes.

Government Departments: Carbon Emissions

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what amount of carbon dioxide emissions arose from Government operations in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [303520]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Government are committed to achieving a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from its estate of 12.5 per cent. and from administrative road travel by 15 per cent. both by 2010-11. Progress against these targets is reported annually in the Sustainable Development in Government report.

The latest assessment of performance, published in December 2009 shows that emissions from the office estate in 2008-09 were 2,593,725 tonnes of CO_2, representing a reduction of 10 per cent. against the 1999-2000 baseline year. Emissions from administrative road vehicles are baselined against a 2005-06 year, and at 2008-09 were 149,269 tonnes, representing a reduction of 17 per cent.

This information was published on the 18 December 2009, and is available on the OGC website:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/sustainability_programme _progress.asp

Information on reporting years prior to 2008-09 was collated and published by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) can be found on the SDC website:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk

Housing: Energy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with house builders on inclusion of (i) solar water heating and (ii) photovoltaic electricity generation technology in new build homes. [306339]

Joan Ruddock: The Communities and Local Government Department (CLG) has announced a policy that all new homes will be zero carbon from 2016, with interim changes to the building regulations in 2010 and 2013.

The Minister for Housing and the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change participate in the 2016 Task Force which brings together senior representatives of industry and other stakeholders to oversee the progress of the zero carbon homes policy. House builders via the Home Builders Federation are represented on that body.

CLG is providing financial support to the Zero Carbon Hub, an industry-led body which is leading on the practical delivery of the policy. The Hub has established a number of task groups which bring together relevant stakeholders including house builders. Government observers on this group includes officials from this department who are therefore engaging with the relevant stakeholders on an ongoing basis.

CLG has been consulting on the proposed changes to Part L of the Building Regulations for 2010. This process has resulted in engagement with house builders throughout the consultation. As part of that process officials have discussed the range of renewable technologies for deployment in new build including solar thermal and solar photovoltaic technologies.

Power Stations: Blythe Bridge

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will initiate a public inquiry into the proposed Blythe Bridge power station. [309863]

Mr. Kidney: We have yet to receive the views of the relevant planning authorities, Staffordshire Moorlands district council and Staffordshire county council. Should either of them object then a public inquiry is mandatory under schedule 8 to the Electricity Act 1989. Even if neither council objects, the Secretary of State has the discretion to hold a public inquiry into the application in light of other representations he receives. The hon. Member will be informed of his decision, including whether or not a public inquiry will be held, in due course.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research he has undertaken into the willingness of people to accept *(a)* wind turbines and *(b)* other renewable energy projects in their local areas. [309761]

Mr. Kidney: The Government conduct a Renewable Energy Awareness and Attitudes Research survey each year and publishes the results on the DECC website. In the 2009 survey, support for renewable energy remained high with over eight in 10 respondents interviewed saying they would support it, and 62 per cent. saying they would be happy to live within 5 km of a wind power development.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many applications to the Warm Front Scheme for *(a)* heating, *(b)* insulation and *(c)* heating and insulation were approved in (i) Southend and (ii) England and Wales in each of the last two years. [308166]

Mr. Kidney: The following tables show the number of households that received *(a)* heating, *(b)* insulation and *(c)* heating and insulation in (i) Southend and (ii) England under the Warm Front scheme in each of the last two complete years. For convenience, the tables also include the number of households assisted in this year to date.

(i) Southend

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 to date (31 December)
(a) Heating only	437	506	464
(b) Insulation only	757	872	1,038
(c) Both	439	506	434

(ii) England

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 to date (31,December)
(a) Heating only	92,894	96,540	70,050
(b) Insulation only	66,135	59,373	42,479
(c) Both	18,056	24,081	24,472

Fuel poverty is a devolved matter, as such, the Warm Front scheme operates in England only and is not active in Wales.

Warm Front Scheme: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in Leeds, North-West constituency received assistance under the Warm Front scheme in 2008-09. [309389]

Mr. Kidney: The Warm Front scheme assisted 309 households in Leeds, North-West during scheme year 2008-09.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what work the Audit Commission is undertaking on behalf of the Tenant Services Authority in relation to inspections of social housing. [308270]

Barbara Follett: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 12 January 2010:

Your Parliamentary question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

Since the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) was established on 1 December 2008, the Audit Commission has undertaken the following inspections of registered social landlords requested by the Authority:

Twenty one full inspections, covering all tenant services, are now completed and are published on the Audit Commission website http://www.audit-commission.govuk. A list is attached for ease of reference.

Fifteen focused inspections, covering a limited number of tenant services that are undertaken at short notice, completed and published, covering judgements for both current services and prospects for improvement.

Eighteen focused inspections, covering a limited number of tenant services, undertaken at short notice, completed and published in respect of judgements of the current services. Judgements for future prospects of service improvement, following local consultation between tenants and their landlord, will be published in due course.

Six further full inspections are in progress or programmed for completion by March 2010.

Twelve focused inspections, to be undertaken at short notice, are programmed for completion by March 2010.

Five full service inspections of Registered Social Landlords are programmed for 2010/11, as will be a number of focused inspections, the numbers of which are yet to be determined.

From April 2010 (subject to Parliamentary approval) the TSA will also be responsible for commissioning inspections of local authority landlord services from the Audit Commission.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Organisation	*Inspection title*	*How good is the service?*	*What are the prospects for improvement*	*Month published*	*Month on site*
North Somerset Housing	Housing Management Services	Fair	Promising	December 2008	October 2008
Eastend Homes	Housing Management Services	Good	Promising	December 2008	October 2008
Lee Housing Association	Housing Management Services	Poor	Promising	December 2008	June 2008
Green Vale Homes	Housing Management Services	Fair	Promising	January 2009	October 2008
Victory Housing	Housing Management Services	Fair	Promising	January 2009	October 2008
Community Gateway Association	Housing Management Services	Good	Promising	February 2009	July 2008
Drum Housing Association	Housing Management Services	Fair	Promising	April 2009	January 2009
Freebridge Community Housing	Housing Management Services	Fair	Promising	April 2009	January 2009
Clapham Park Homes	Housing Management Services	Fair	Uncertain	April 2009	January 2009
Adacutus Housing Association	Housing Management Service	Fair	Promising	April 2009	February 2009
Manchester and District Housing Association	Housing Management Service	Good	Excellent	May 2009	February 2009
NomadE5 Housing Association	Housing Management Service	Fair	Excellent	May 2009	February 2009
Tor Homes	Housing Management Services	Fair	Promising	June 2009	March 2009
Kingfisher Housing Association	Housing Management Services	Fair	Promising	June 2009	March 2009
Leeds Federated Housing Association	Housing Management Services Re-inspection	Fair	Promising	July 2009	March 2009
Herefordshire Housing	Housing Management Services Re-inspection	Good	Excellent	August 2009	May 2009
Cheshire Peaks and Plains Housing Trust	Housing Management Services	Good	Excellent	August 2009	June 2009
Accent Peerless	Housing Management Services	Fair	Promising	September 2009	June 2009
Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust	Housing Management Services	Fair	Promising	September 2009	June 2009
Riverside Carlisle	Housing Management Services	Fair	Promising	October 2009	June 2009
Merlin Housing Society	Housing Management Services	Poor	Uncertain	October 2009	June 2009

Building Regulations: Water

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the revisions to Part G of the Building Regulations did not take effect on 1 October 2009; and what recent representations his Department has received from the European Commission on those regulations. [309031]

Mr. Ian Austin: It was necessary, under the Technical Standards Directive, to submit to the European Commission the guidance in the draft Approved Document that was intended to accompany the changes to Part G of the Building Regulations. On 3 September 2009 we received correspondence from the European Commission. This "detailed opinion" contained representations on elements of the technical guidance and extended the standstill period, in which it is not possible to bring into force "regulations" (which covers the guidance in the Approved Documents for the purposes of the Building Regulations), until 2 December 2009. It was necessary, therefore, to delay the coming into force of the legislative changes to Part G until the next common commencement date of 6 April 2010.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make it his policy to allow the payment of community infrastructure levy payments in instalments. [309034]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government consulted on draft regulations for the implementation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) over the summer. Although no provision was included for the payment of CIL in instalments, views were invited on whether regulations should provide for this and if so how. The consultation ended on 23 October 2009 and consultation responses are now being analysed. Further announcements on CIL will be made shortly.

Community Relations: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to his Department's press release of 14 October 2009, on Connecting communities, whether an assessment was made by his Department of the political results of recent local elections when allocating the funding to chosen wards. [308005]

Mr. Malik: Wards were identified by examining a range of hard and soft data around cohesion, deprivation and crime, perceived unfairness in the allocation of resources and feedback from people working locally. The results of local elections were not assessed as part of this process.

Council Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 4 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1060W, on council housing, what the size of the local authority housing stock was in each year since 1997. [307994]

Mr. Ian Austin: Local authority stock for each year since 1997 is given in the following table. The figure for 2008-09 is subject to audit.

Financial year	*Total stock*
1997-98	3,440,988
1998-99	3,318,035
1999-2000	3,185,869
2000-01	3,016,722
2001-02	2,811,959
2002-03	2,699,147
2003-04	2,453,864
2004-05	2,332,522
2005-06	2,162,330
2006-07	2,073,575
2007-08	1,925,970
2008-09	1,852,992

Council Housing: Debt Collection

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 2 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 758W, on council tax: debt collection, whether he plans to publish a consultation paper on this matter; whether he plans to change the powers of bailiffs in relation to council tax collection; and what changes to bailiffs' powers and the level of fines there would be under the proposed new system. [308392]

Barbara Follett: Further to my answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of November 2 2009, *Official Report*, column 758W, no decision has been taken yet about whether to extend the council tax enforcement regime in this way.

With regard to bailiff powers more generally, the Ministry of Justice has completed an extensive review of these which culminated in the enforcement provisions contained in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. The Ministry of Justice will be producing a consultation paper which sets out a package of measures designed to address the concerns that have been raised about the behaviour of bailiffs; the fees they charge and proposals for the regulation of the industry. It will also set out draft regulations on seizure of goods. The Ministry of Justice intends to commence this consultation exercise with a view to implementing the changes in April 2012.

Council Housing: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's policy is on the write off of local authority housing debt. [307946]

Mr. Ian Austin: We set out our plans to reform council housing finance in a consultation paper on 21 July 2009.

Councillors: Codes of Practice

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct by a councillor were referred to the Standards Board in each of the last five years; and how many such cases resulted in a penalty or other sanction in each such year. [308423]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of complaints referred to the Standards Board for England in each of the last five years are as follows:

	Number
2004-2005	3,861
2005-2006	3,836
2006-2007	3,549
2007-2008	3,547
2008-2009	177

The figure for 2008-09 reflects the introduction of the new locally based conduct regime from May 2008 in which, as recommended by the Commission for Standards in Public Life, all but the most serious allegations of misconduct are handled by individual council's standards committees.

The Standards Board has no sanctioning power, but where, after investigation, it considers a complaint referred to it might warrant some sanction, it reports the matter to either the council's standards committee, or the Adjudication Panel for England, who then determine whether there has been a breach of the code and if so what sanction to apply.

The number of cases referred to councils standards committees or the Adjudication Panel for England were:

	Number
2004-2005	189
2005-2006	160
2006-2007	21
2007-2008	23
2008-2009	18

Departmental Information Officers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* press officers and *(b)* communications staff were employed by his Department (i) in each of the last five years and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available; and what the cost of employing these staff was in each such year. [309925]

Barbara Follett: To find the numbers of communications staff employed by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2008-09, I refer the hon. Member to its annual report. The cost of employing these was £3,659,986.

For costs in previous years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 578W. We do not hold the information on numbers in previous years in the format requested, and this could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's original expenditure provision was for 2009-10; what the most recently updated provision is; and how much has been spent under *(a)* Request for Resources 1 and *(b)* Request for Resources 2. [309841]

Barbara Follett: The Department's original, and revised, expenditure provision for 2009-10 are set out in the Main Estimates (published 16 June 2009—HC514) and the Winter Supplementary Estimates (published 24 November 2009—HC24) respectively.

November is the most recent month for which complete figures for 2009-10 expenditure are available. 2009-10 expenditure to the end of November under *(a)* Request for Resources 1 was £10,513.5 million and *(b)* Request for Resources 2 was £18,142.0 million. These figures are subject to audit.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost of the proposed new innovation commissioning unit in his Department; and what its role will be in relation to that of regional improvement and efficiency partnerships. [309004]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State's priorities on innovation are being delivered flexibly from within existing administrative resources and costs are not recorded separately. This work engages with, but does not duplicate, the work of regional improvement and efficiency partnerships.

Fire Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of retained firefighters. [309701]

Mr. Malik: Each fire and rescue authority is responsible for assessing, through its Integrated Risk Management Planning process, the number of firefighters on both wholetime and retained duty systems required to provide an effective fire and rescue service in its area. The Government are aware that, due to the nature of the retained duty system (RDS), which requires staff to live or work in close proximity to the fire station, a number of fire and rescue authorities find it difficult to recruit sufficient numbers of RDS staff.

Communities and Local Government has resourced a number of initiatives to support fire and rescue authorities in their efforts to recruit RDS staff. Most recent among these initiatives has been the development, following national research, of a suite of information literature, in the form of a toolkit, for fire and rescue services to use in establishing and building links with local businesses to encourage them to support their staff in becoming RDS firefighters. The Employers' Information Toolkit is designed to be flexible so that it can be tailored specifically to suit local need. To complement the Toolkit, and as a further support to local communication strategies directed at the business community, CLG has also produced a radio advertisement which fire and rescue services can use locally.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time firefighters were employed by each fire and rescue authority on 31 March *(a)* 1998, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2008. [309702]

Mr. Malik: The number of full-time fire-fighters employed in fire and rescue services by each fire and rescue authority on 31 March *(a)* 1998, *(b)* 2001, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2008 are shown in the following table.

Please note that data for 1998 were only available as at 1 January.

Fire and rescue service fire-fighters in post (full-time equivalent and in 24-hour units of cover) by authority at 31 March 1998, 2001, 2005 and 2008

	1998[1]		*2001*		*2005*		*2008*	
	Whole-time[2]	*Retained*[3]	*Whole-time*[2]	*Retained*[3]	*Whole-time*[2]	*Retained*[3]	*Whole-time*[2]	*Retained*[3]
England	31,906	12,964	31,623	10,633	31,097	10,785	30,581	11,747
Avon	656	211	667	160	669	186	660	165
Bedfordshire and Luton	308	136	330	115	323	122	330	136
Buckinghamshire	300	201	292	152	349	137	367	194
Cambridgeshire	264	341	276	295	273	323	277	297
Cheshire	621	194	631	146	602	146	586	172
Cleveland	604	86	601	62	563	72	542	72
Cornwall	183	401	185	407	201	403	190	403

Fire and rescue service fire-fighters in post (full-time equivalent and in 24-hour units of cover) by authority at 31 March 1998, 2001, 2005 and 2008

	1998[1]		2001		2005		2008	
	Whole-time[2]	Retained[3]	Whole-time[2]	Retained[3]	Whole-time[2]	Retained[3]	Whole-time[2]	Retained[3]
County Durham and	405	158	405	119	385	144	387	147
Cumbria	283	432	274	370	274	426	252	452
Derbyshire	481	378	465	231	475	206	444	204
Devon	551	722	570	648	562	763	—	—
Devon and Somerset[4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	721	1,131
Dorset	291	361	300	288	302	313	300	312
East Sussex	432	235	425	201	434	190	428	206
Essex	903	452	936	373	925	290	943	438
Gloucestershire	225	277	232	257	230	278	234	252
Greater Manchester	2,150	48	2,090	26	2,028	22	1,943	16
Hampshire	764	689	784	546	790	576	825	614
Hereford and Worcester	355	347	355	294	319	285	342	315
Hertfordshire	572	256	565	212	560	208	574	203
Humberside	709	293	725	276	710	289	726	282
Isle of Wight	60	159	61	152	63	152	59	148
Isles of Scilly	7	33	9	34	10	40	11	39
Kent	947	752	944	494	893	487	900	667
Lancashire	987	440	1,010	285	957	300	896	317
Leicestershire	490	233	498	144	474	n/a	481	147
Lincolnshire	187	401	189	413	195	420	230	433
London	5,909	0	5,693	0	5,924	0	5,910	0
Merseyside	1,481	0	1,369	0	1,249	n/a	1,044	185
Norfolk	277	447	310	424	281	469	302	497
North Yorkshire	354	375	352	331	358	329	320	334
Northamptonshire	280	223	296	182	298	211	276	196
Northumberland	202	176	206	152	193	164	190	160
Nottinghamshire	568	323	581	202	542	189	576	206
Oxfordshire	215	278	230	237	237	256	249	287
Royal Berkshire	423	165	406	122	422	n/a	437	100
Shropshire	199	288	200	249	208	272	214	292
Somerset	171	380	179	351	184	342	—	—
South Yorkshire	916	72	920	39	878	32	834	60
Staffordshire	487	352	473	304	447	337	446	313
Suffolk	262	431	247	352	256	362	259	396
Surrey	726	140	713	103	673	105	650	76
Tyne and Wear	1,023	21	1,010	18	945	18	912	14
Warwickshire	310	182	286	149	276	145	275	133
West Midlands	2,044	13	2,031	8	1,944	11	1,937	7
West Sussex	392	339	397	272	394	292	376	282
West Yorkshire	1,723	174	1,683	166	1,602	159	1,501	149
Wiltshire	209	349	222	272	220	314	225	298

[1] Strength figures as at 1 January 1998.
[2] Including all whole-time shift systems in full-time equivalents.
[3] In 24 hour units of cover.
[4] With effect from 1 April 2007, Devon fire and rescue service and Somerset fire and rescue service merged to become Devon and Somerset fire and rescue service.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* primary crewing and *(b)* dual or mixed crewing for aerial platform fire-fighting appliances. [309703]

Mr. Malik: The Department has not undertaken any assessment of the effectiveness of primary crewing or duel or mixed crewing for aerial platform fire-fighting appliances. The Audit Commission assesses fire and rescue authorities' use of resources as part of their comprehensive area assessment. It is for fire and rescue authorities to decide the location and crewing arrangements for their firefighting resources. It is also their responsibility to undertake any necessary assessments of their crewing arrangements, based on their integrated risk management plan (IRMP) which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle both existing and potential risks to communities. The IRMP enables the authority to tailor cover for fire and other incidents to local circumstances, evaluating where risk is greatest and allocating resources accordingly. Fire and rescue authorities are required to undertake consultation on their IRMP with their communities and other interested parties such as adjacent fire and rescue authorities prior to its implementation.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to improve training for firefighters for dealing with *(a)* flooding incidents, *(b)* urban search and rescue calls, *(c)* water rescues and *(d)* terrorist incidents. [309704]

Mr. Malik: The Department's new dimensions project has provided the fire and rescue service (FRS) with enhanced capabilities for high volume pumping, urban search and rescue, and mass decontamination of the public, to respond to incidents on the largest scale, both terrorist-related and natural events such as flooding. The sector-led National Resilience Authority, funded by the Department, provides operational assurance that the capabilities remain fit for purpose for the long term, and this includes a strong focus on training, including development and central purchasing of training on behalf of the FRS. The Department also directly funds fire and rescue authorities (£4.9 million in 2009-10) in recognition of local training costs for new dimensions.

Ultimately, it is for each authority to ensure that its personnel are trained for the roles they carry out. Supporting this, the Department, working with the sector, has produced an FRS operational assessment toolkit which covers training, including the requirement for civil resilience training. A sector qualifications strategy under development by Skills 4 Justice will develop a fire and rescue water safety qualification.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects the final guidance on good practice will be published in accordance with recommendation 41 of the Pitt Report. [305071]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply.

In line with our commitment in the Government's response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review, in August 2009 we published final guidance on good practice in relation to the management and co-ordination of local operations, as part of revised Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance (section 4.1).

Floods: Thames Gateway

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the level of flood risk in the Thames Gateway and *(b)* the effects on the availability of insurance policies for new build dwellings in that area of flood risk. [309010]

Mr. Malik: The Environment Agency has recently finished consultation on its Thames Estuary 2100 (TE2100) Plan, which assesses increasing tidal flood risk in the Thames estuary floodplain over the century, and recommends actions to manage the increasing risk over that time. The Environment Agency findings show that the standard of protection provided by the tidal defences, is higher than previously anticipated. Under current climate change guidance the main estuary defences, maintained and renewed when necessary, will continue to protect estuary communities against tidal surges, that on average may only occur once in a 1,000 years, up to around 2070. The final TE2100 plan, which will direct future tidal flood risk management in the estuary, will be submitted to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in the spring.

All local planning authorities have to undertake their own strategic flood risk assessment to inform their development planning process as detailed in Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25). PPS25 also requires that planning applications for new developments located within flood risk areas are supported by a flood risk assessment, to assess the risk of flooding from all sources, and demonstrate how the development can manage those risks so it is safe.

The Government's position on flood risk and the effect on the availability of insurance is set out in a joint Government and Association of British Insurers (ABI) statement published in July 2008. ABI have also said that their members will insure buildings that comply with PPS25.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 15 June 2009, *Official Report,* column 32W, on Departmental building, whether his Department has issued guidance on the maximum duration of validity of a local authority search within a home information pack before which it is deemed to be out of date; and what responsibilities *(a)* estate agents and *(b)* sellers have to update the searches in the case of material changes. [307220]

Mr. Ian Austin: There is no requirement for sellers to renew the searches in a Home Information Pack as long as the property remains on the market.

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated to the *(a)* Housing and Planning Delivery Grant and *(b)* Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme for (i) 2010-11 and (ii) 2011-12. [308269]

Barbara Follett: In the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) consultation of 2009 we announced that, given the changed economic circumstances, we had taken the opportunity to review the position and make some hard choices about our priorities. In conclusion, we have scaled back the increase in HPDG by £25 million in year two (2009-10) and £50 million in year three (2010-11) to reflect the decline in housing completions and the lower number of plans being submitted. The baseline of HPDG is still increasing significantly so the effect of this change is that HPDG funding will increase from £100 million in year one (2008-09) to £200 million in year three (2010-11). We will continue to keep these issues under review.

No decision has been taken yet about Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) scheme allocations for 2010-11.

Budgets for 2011-12 will be considered as part of the next spending review.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the likely effect of the proposals in the 2010-11 draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Subsidy Determination published on 10 December 2009 on the total net outturn of HRA subsidy for 2010-11. [308243]

John Healey: Any HRA subsidy forecast for a future year can change very significantly due to interest rate and stock movement changes, and other information submitted by local authorities through HRA subsidy returns. We will not have data from local authorities to inform estimates of any subsidy surplus for 2010-11 until after the first subsidy claim forms are received at the end of March 2010.

Islam4UK

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the effects on community cohesion of the activities of Islam4UK. [309643]

Mr. Malik: In my role as the Minister for preventing extremism, I have met with the Home Secretary and other Home Office Ministers to discuss Islam4UK.

The Prime Minister and I have publicly commented Islam4UK's recent announcements appear intended to provoke anger and division between communities. They have not succeeded. Last week we saw local Wootton Bassett residents and the Wiltshire Islamic Cultural Centre united in opposition to Islam4UK's "irresponsible and irrational" actions.

Land Use

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has undertaken research into the practice of land banking by *(a)* developers and *(b)* supermarkets in the last five years. [308428]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not undertaken research into the practice of land banking by developers or supermarkets in the last five years.

Landlords: Registration

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable he has set for the introduction of a national register of landlords; and whether legislation will be required to establish such a register. [307850]

Mr. Ian Austin: Introduction of a national register for landlords would require primary legislation. At present, there is no timetable established for such legislation.

Leasehold: Service Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* arm's-length management organisations on the level of service charges levied by them on their leaseholders. [308328]

Mr. Ian Austin: In February 1997, the Department issued guidance to social landlords on how to comply with two sets of directions issued at that time.

The Social Landlords Discretionary Reduction of Service Charges (England) Directions 1997 give social landlords discretion to reduce or waive leaseholders' bills in specified circumstances.

The Social Landlords Mandatory Reduction of Service Charges (England) Directions 1997 require them to reduce bills in certain cases when special Government assistance is applied for from specified programmes.

The Department's 2006-07 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Manual also provides guidance to local authorities on appropriate accounting treatment of mixed leaseholder and tenanted blocks, including general advice on how to account for income and expenditure on works to common parts.

The above guidance does not distinguish between local authorities and their arm's-length management Organisations.

Local Government Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which areas have adopted participatory budgeting; what funding his Department has provided to support the use of that practice in each such area. [309009]

Barbara Follett: The Participatory Budgeting Unit (PBU) collates information on our behalf on bodies that have adopted it. Initiatives are being led by a variety of types of organisation including councils (all types), police authorities, primary care trusts and the third sector.

According to the information available to the PBU, the following bodies have implemented participatory budgeting initiatives:

North West

Salford City Council
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Lancaster City Council
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Sefton Council
Manchester City Council
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Liverpool City Council
Greater Manchester Police—Tameside, Stockport, Bolton and Rochdale
Lancashire Police—Wyre and Blackburn
Merseyside Police—Liverpool
Cheshire East Council
Alston Moor Parish Council
Wigan Community Network (Third Sector)

North East

Newcastle upon Tyne City Council
Sunderland City Council
Wansbeck District Council
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Hartlepool Borough Council
Cleveland Police—Hartlepool

West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Trust (New Deal for Communities—Third Sector)

Coast and Country Housing (Redcar)

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Northumbria Police—Sunderland, Gateshead, South Tyneside and Newcastle

Yorkshire and the Humber

Bradford Local Strategic Partnership

York City Council

Sheffield City Council

Leeds City Council

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Hull—Preston Road Neighbourhood Development Company (New Deal for Communities—Third Sector)

North Lincolnshire Council

Scarborough Borough Council

South Yorkshire Police—Rotherham, Barnsley and Sheffield

West Yorkshire Police—Wakefield

West Midlands

Birmingham City Council

Staffordshire County Council

Walsall—The new horizons community enterprise (New Deal for Communities—Third Sector)

West Bromwich—Greets Green Partnership (New Deal for Communities—Third Sector)

Hampton Bishop Parish Council

Coventry City Council

West Midland Police—Birmingham

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

East Midlands

Leicestershire County Council

Manton Community Alliance (Third Sector delivering neighbourhood management pathfinder)

Mansfield District Council

Nottingham Neighbourhood Development Company (New Deal for Communities—Third Sector)

Bassetlaw District Council

Leicester City Council

Derbyshire Police—Bolsover

Nottinghamshire Police—Mansfield and Nottingham

East

Norfolk County Council

Norfolk Police—Broadland

Huntingdonshire District Council

London

Lewisham London Borough Council

Haringey London Borough Council

Lambeth London Borough Council

Tower Hamlets Local Strategic Partnership

Metropolitan Police—Islington and Barking and Dagenham

South East

Isle of Wight Council

Thanet District Council

Southampton City Council

Kent County Council

Thames Valley Police—Slough

Kent Police—Thanet

South West

Wiltshire Council

East Devon District Council

Dulverton Town Council

Cornwall Council

Plymouth—Devonport Regeneration Community Partnership (New Deal for Communities—Third Sector)

Again according to the PBU, the following bodies intend to implement participatory budgeting initiatives, but have not yet done so:

North West

Carlisle City Council

Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council

Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council

Yorkshire and the Humber

Kirklees Council

Hull Primary Care Trust

East Midlands

Daventry District Council

East

Luton Borough Council

Hertfordshire County Council

South East

Buckinghamshire County Council

Portsmouth City Council

South West

Bristol City Council

CLG provides grant funding to the PBU who provide advice and support to areas implementing participatory budgeting. We provided £260,000 in grant funding to the PBU in 2008-09 and we have allocated £270,000 in grant funding for 2009-10.

Local Government Services: EU Law

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the effects on local authorities of the implementation of the EU Services Directive. [308253]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have approached the implementation of the EU Services Directive in accordance with our commitment to ensure that all new burdens falling on local authorities, including those arising as a result of the implementation of EU Directives, are fully considered and properly funded so that there is no upward pressure on council tax bills.

Local Government Services: Fees and Charges

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department has taken in response to the review of the Audit Commission of the use of fees and charges by local authorities. [308586]

Barbara Follett: In the last decade, the Audit Commission have issued two national reports on local authority fees and charges. The first, published in 1999, was entitled "The Price is Right". It identified a number of issues for authorities to consider when setting fees, and also found that the legal framework for council charges was complex and confusing and the framework should be reviewed to provide the best authorities with the freedom to improve and innovate. The Government took action to provide greater flexibility for local decisions in this area by introducing a power for councils to charge for discretionary services. This power, which was implemented by section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003, is limited to cost recovery and the authority may only charge a person for providing a service if he or she has agreed to its provision.

The Commission's second report, entitled "Positively Charged" was published in 2008 and it also made a number of recommendations for local authorities to consider and found that the rationale for centrally imposed restrictions on the level of fees was not always clear. However, the Government consider the level of centrally set fees carefully to try to ensure that the appropriate balance between the policy objectives of the service covered by the fee, and its level is struck.

The Government believe that councils should avoid imposing double taxation on citizens by adopting proposals that deliver only a basic level of service, and impose charges for anything above this. We also believe that councils must not see raising income—whether through charges or taxation—as an alternative to cutting out waste and driving down expenditure. Anyone who pays a tax or a charge for a local service has the right to expect that the authority in question will strive to keep costs down and improve efficiency.

Local Government: Staffordshire

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessments of Staffordshire County Council's social services department have been undertaken since 2007; [309479]

Social Services: Staffordshire

(2) what assessments of Staffordshire County Council's social services department have been made since 2008. [310091]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold records of the inspections and assessments taking place in individual councils. However, inspectorates have advised that:

The Care Quality Commission (CQC), which was established in April 2009, and one of its predecessors, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), has carried out the following assessments of Staffordshire county council since 2007:

reviews of Staffordshire county council's fostering services and of its adoption service, both in January 2007;

published its annual performance assessment of Staffordshire county council for 2007-08 in October 2008;

carried out an inspection of Staffordshire county council in March-April 2009 to find out how well the council was safeguarding vulnerable adults. The results were published as a CQC review of "Independence, Wellbeing and Choice"' in June 2009;

published its 2008-09 annual performance assessment of the council in December 2009, which includes details of Staffordshire's adult social care services.

All of CQC's documents are available on its website:

http://www.cqc.org.uk/publications.cfm

Also undertaken were:

Audit Commission inspection of the Supporting People framework in 2008;

Ofsted reported on Staffordshire's fostering services in May 2008;

Ofsted/CQC reported on services for safeguarding and looked after children in August 2009. (Ofsted assumed responsibility for assessing and inspecting children's service including children's social care services in April 2007);

Ofsted published annual ratings of Staffordshire children's services in November 2007, December 2008 and December 2009.

Information on Ofsted's assessments and inspections in Staffordshire is available on its website:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_view/(leaid)/860

CQC and Ofsted contributed to the comprehensive area assessment (CAA) introduced from April 2009. The multi-inspectorate CAA report on Staffordshire in December 2009 included CQC's performance assessment and Ofsted's annual rating. CAA Reports are available on the Oneplace website:

http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/Pages/default.aspx

Mortgages: Rented Housing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many buy-to-let mortgages were in arrears in each year since 1997. [309935]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department does not collect information on mortgage possessions and arrears. Information is published separately by the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) and the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

Multiple Occupation: Licensing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 381W, on multiple occupation: licensing, for what reason the report has not yet been published; and whether he expects it to be published before May 2010. [310389]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Building Research Establishment Report is ready for publication. Publication was originally delayed due to Purdah prior to the local authority elections last year, and the ministerial changes that followed. We are currently awaiting a suitable publication date prior to May 2010.

Non-Domestic Rates: Closed Circuit Television

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology the Valuation Office Agency uses to value closed circuit television for the purpose of calculating business rates. [308593]

Barbara Follett: To the extent a closed circuit television system is rateable, separately or as part of a larger rateable hereditament, valuation officers have used a cost based methodology to value them.

Ordnance Survey: Income

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much income Ordnance Survey received from the sale of *(a)* licences and *(b)* maps in each of the last three years. [309849]

Mr. Ian Austin: For the last three years for which complete information is available the income received by Ordnance Survey in the categories indicated, was:

£ million

	Revenue from licences	*Revenue from paper maps*
2006-07	98.6	9.1
2007-08	101.4	9.6
2008-09	102.3	8.9

Planning Obligations

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on whether funding under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 may be spent on religious buildings. [310451]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Government's policy on the use of Planning Obligations is set out in Circular 05/05 and local authorities must have reason for departing from it. Communities and Local Government has also published practice guidance on Planning Obligations.

Both of these documents are available on the Department's website.

Private Rented Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what activity his Department has undertaken as part of the task and finish groups referred to in the Government response to the Rugg review of the private rented sector. [309397]

Mr. Ian Austin: Four task and finish groups were established as part of the consultation process for the Government's response to the Rugg review of private rented sector housing. Three of these groups (considering proposals for a national register, regulation of letting and managing agents and regulation of managing agents for leasehold properties) each met twice during the consultation period. A further group, considering local letting agencies, has met four times to date and continues to do so.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent meetings *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had with organisations which aim to remove the barriers to the private rented housing sector for low income households on housing waiting lists; [309398]

(2) when he plans to publish proposals for local lettings agencies, as referred to in the Government response to the Rugg review of the private rented sector. [309399]

Mr. Ian Austin: As part of the consultation process on the Government's response to the Rugg review of private rented sector housing, a group was set up with key stakeholders to explore how local authorities could work more effectively with the private rented sector to house low-income individuals and households, particularly through a Local Lettings Agency (LLA) approach.

This group has met four times to date—in July, September (twice) and December 2009—and plans to meet again shortly. My officials will be sharing the outcome of the group's work on LLAs with the staff of local authorities, voluntary organisations and industry bodies—including case studies on LAs who have introduced an LLA—during the spring.

In addition, Ministers and officials meet from time to time on this and other PRS issues with local authorities, senior staff from organisations including Crisis and Shelter and industry bodies such as the National Landlords Association (NLA) and the National Approved Lettings Scheme (NALS).

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when his Department plans to publish its response to the consultation on its proposals for implementation of the recommendations of the Rugg review of the private rented sector. [309400]

Mr. Ian Austin: We have been carefully considering the over 250 responses we received to our consultation on proposals in response to the Rugg review of the private rented sector. A summary of those responses will be published shortly.

Regional Government: South West

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the South West Councils is funded. [309500]

Barbara Follett: The South West Secretariat which supports the SW Councils receives funding from a number of sources. Communities and Local Government (CLG) funds the Strategic Leader Board's planning, transport and housing functions; grant funding is also received from CLG to support the delivery of improvement and efficiency across the public sector. The Home Office provides funding for work on migration and asylum. In addition local authorities, including town and parish councils subscribe to the organisation.

There is also an element of not for profit, self generated funding through provision of specialist employment consultancy and learning and development events.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are employed at South West Councils. [309501]

Barbara Follett: From 1 January 2010 South West Councils will employ 66.5 full-time equivalent posts held by 71 staff. This is a reduction from 79 full-time equivalent posts in April 2009.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding South West Councils receives per annum. [309502]

Barbara Follett: For financial year 2009-10 South West Councils received the following funding from Communities and Local Government: £2,070,148 (regional funding for the Strategic Leaders Board) and £525,000 to fund the core costs of the South-West Regional Efficiency and Improvement Programme (REIP). In addition to this South West Councils received £110,000 direct from the Home Office to support regional work on migration and asylum. Local government subscriptions to South West Councils amounted to £572,700 and Associate Members of South West Employers provided £31,000. It is anticipated that South West Employers will generate £800,000 through their training and consultancy service.

Royal Society of Arts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the full text of his speech to the Royal Society of Arts of 21 October 2009. [309008]

Barbara Follett: A copy of my right hon. Friend's speech as held on the Department's website has been placed in the Library.

Sheltered Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the provision of support for sheltered housing wardens. [307950]

Mr. Ian Austin: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not issued any guidance on the provision of support for sheltered housing wardens. The Supporting People programme grant, which is paid to top tier local authorities to enable them to provide housing related support services, which may include the provision of wardens in sheltered housing schemes, is managed and delivered at the local level. Decisions about the provision of services are a matter for local authorities based on local needs and priorities.

Shops: Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Putney of 13 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 771W, on empty shops funding grant, if he will place in the Library a copy of the methodology used to allocate the funding to the local authorities listed. [308982]

Barbara Follett: As the Department for Communities and Local Government announced on August 13 and December 4 2009, it is providing £5.6 million to 107 local authorities to support initiatives designed to make use of vacant shops to give a boost to high streets and town centres adversely affected by the recession. We have targeted this funding at councils with relatively high levels of deprivation and each is receiving just over £52,000.

The allocations announced in August 2009 were based on local authorities in the top third of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) ranked in order of shop vacancy rates; the top 57 councils each received just over £52,000. The allocations announced in December 2009 were based on local authorities in the top half of the IMD ranked in order of shop vacancy rates, but excluded those which had received funding in August; a further 50 councils also received just over £52,000 each.

A copy of the CLG report "The English Indices of Deprivation 2007" is available in the Library of the House. Shop vacancy data are part of a set of statistics collected by Experian on a frequent basis as part of their business. We entered into a commercial arrangement with Experian to use the data set for allocating this funding but do not have rights to publish it.

Sleeping Rough

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what qualifying criteria are required in order to receive a Supporting People grant under the rough sleeper strand; and if he will make a statement. [307221]

Mr. Ian Austin: Supporting People funding is not allocated on a client group basis. The Supporting People programme is administered at the local level by the relevant administering authority and CLG do not set a qualifying criteria for providers to receive a grant. It is for the authority to decide which services to fund, informed by the local needs and priorities. The majority of individuals who are eligible for Supporting People funding tend to use a service, rather than receive a cash grant.

Social Rented Housing: Regulation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the likely level of fees which will be levied on registered social landlords to cover the cost of regulation by the Tenant Services Authority. [309851]

Mr. Ian Austin: No decision has been taken to levy fees on social landlords to cover the cost of regulation. Before any decision is taken, the Tenant Services Authority will consult on the principle and approach to introducing fees.

Thames Gateway London Partnership

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library copies of the written representations made to his Department by the Thames Gateway London Partnership in the last 12 months. [309035]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

HEALTH

NHS: Charitable Funding

15. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the amount of money donated to NHS institutions through charitable giving. [310030]

Phil Hope: In 2008-09, national health service trusts and primary care trusts in England received contributions from all charitable sources totalling £62 million in expenditure and £65 million in assets. The Department does not collect this information for NHS Foundation Trusts who report directly to Monitor.

A and E: Nottinghamshire

16. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of accident and emergency provision in Nottinghamshire hospitals. [310031]

Ann Keen: Primary care trusts commission national health service hospital trusts to provide emergency care services according to local needs and monitor their performance.

NHS Ambulance Trusts

17. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with NHS ambulance trust professionals regarding measuring patient outcomes. [310034]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the oral answer I gave to him earlier today.

Cancer Treatment

18. **Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the comparative cost and efficacy of herceptin and lapatenib for cancer patients. [310035]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no such assessment. It is the role of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency to assess the efficacy of drugs and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to appraise the clinical and cost effectiveness of new drugs and treatments.

NHS Hospitals: Private Facilities

19. **Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many private rooms there are in NHS hospitals built since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [310036]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department collects data on single rooms in new national health service hospitals with a capital value over £25 million. Private pay bedroom data are not collected. Since 2001, all schemes have met the Department's guidance that the proportion of standard in-patient single rooms in new hospitals should aim to be 50 per cent. but not fall below 20 per cent. and must be higher than the facilities they are replacing.

Smoking Cessation

20. **Tom Levitt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to encourage people to stop smoking. [310037]

Gillian Merron: This Government have given active encouragement to people to stop smoking through setting up NHS Stop Smoking Services, smoke-free legislation, banning tobacco advertising, raising the age of sale and effective information campaigns.

A new tobacco control strategy will soon be published to help further reduce the damage caused by smoking.

NHS Staff: Protection

21. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to protect NHS staff from abusive and violent behaviour in hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [310038]

Ann Keen: Each national health service body has a duty to address risks to staff and ensure their safety.

The Department and the NHS Security Management Service will work with stakeholders, including the Social Partnership Forum, to promote the safety of staff.

A new offence of causing nuisance or disturbance on hospital premises and a power to remove someone suspected of committing this offence have recently been introduced.

Health Visitors: Hertfordshire

22 **Mr. Heald:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors the NHS employed in Hertfordshire *(a)* in 2005 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [310039]

Ann Keen: In the last decade, child health services have developed based on research and the healthy child programme. In all the trusts serving the Hertfordshire region, 340 health visitors were employed in 2005. [illegible] the change and the extensive child health programmes, we now deliver child health by a range of practitioners. The latest figures show that at 30 September 2008, there were 272 health visitors in trusts that serve the Hertfordshire area.

Dentistry: Children

23. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of children of primary school age were treated by an NHS dentist in *(a)* England, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* Kettering constituency in the last 12 months. [310040]

Ann Keen: We do not collect statistics relating solely to children of primary school age. In England, 7,658,923 children (69.6 per cent. of all children) received care or treatment from a national health service dentist in the 24 months ending September 2009. In Northamptonshire primary care trust, 100,901 children were seen (65.3 per cent. of all children resident in the PCT).

PCT Funding

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects those primary care trusts classified as under-target to meet the target funding level determined by the formula announced in December 2008. [310020]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The national health service will always be a priority for increasing investment, and we remain committed to moving primary care trusts (PCTs) towards their target allocations as quickly as possible. Future progress towards target will depend on a number of factors including population changes, cost pressures and the overall resources available to the NHS.

There has been a greater recognition of the level of need in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly PCT and as a result, this PCT will ultimately get more money than it would have done previously.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many alcohol-related accident and emergency incidents resulting in hospital admissions there were in each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* strategic health authority area in each of the last three years. [309681]

Gillian Merron: The number of alcohol-related accident and emergency incidents resulting in hospital admissions in each primary care trust (PCT) and regional health area in each of the last three years is presented as follows:

Number of admissions via accident and emergency (A and E) of patients with an alcohol-related condition by PCT of residence

PCT name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	4,133	4,083	4,623
Barking and Dagenham PCT	1,870	1,899	1,933
Barnet PCT	2,082	1,641	2,593
Barnsley PCT	2,037	2,164	2,480
Bassetlaw PCT	915	946	958
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	1,545	1,546	1,694
Bedfordshire PCT	2,879	3,263	3,389
Berkshire East PCT	2,364	2,434	2,825
Berkshire West PCT	1,758	1,977	2,047
Bexley Care Trust	1,148	1,308	1,332
Birmingham East and North PCT	3,847	4,223	4,659
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	1,648	1,656	1,715
Blackpool PCT	1,679	1,619	1,931
Bolton PCT	2,979	3,068	2,955
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	2,305	2,360	2,622
Bradford and Airedale PCT	3,925	4,398	5,438
Brent Teaching PCT	2,201	2,345	2,518
Brighton and Hove City PCT	2,733	3,188	3,698
Bristol PCT	4,067	3,844	4,716
Bromley PCT	2,448	2,468	2,708
Buckinghamshire PCT	2,794	2,547	2,633
Bury PCT	1,762	1,981	2,202
Calderdale PCT	1,763	1,989	1,911
Cambridgeshire PCT	4,585	4,861	5,260
Camden PCT	2,114	2,148	2,039
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	4,449	4,985	5,318
Central Lancashire PCT	4,060	4,492	4,762
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	2,266	2,210	2,015
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	3,063	3,466	3,950
County Durham PCT	3,967	4,700	5,494
Coventry Teaching PCT	2,258	2,254	3,581
Croydon PCT	2,914	2,986	3,353
Cumbria PCT	3,771	4,106	4,222
Darlington PCT	988	1,049	1,122
Derby City PCT	2,098	2,251	2,989
Derbyshire County PCT	5,118	5,679	6,272
Devon PCT	4,437	4,917	5,353
Doncaster PCT	2,482	2,558	2,643
Dorset PCT	2,580	2,582	2,900
Dudley PCT	2,366	2,728	2,766
Ealing PCT	2,875	3,626	4,020
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	2,593	2,869	3,006
East Lancashire PCT	3,546	3,851	4,105
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	2,010	2,181	2,261
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	2,631	2,876	3,177
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	5,999	7,046	7,798
Enfield PCT	2,274	1,582	2,401
Gateshead PCT	2,527	2,525	2,910
Gloucestershire PCT	3,208	3,182	3,367
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	1,468	1,513	1,718
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1,711	1,916	1,679
Halton and St. Helens PCT	4,039	4,544	5,105
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	1,725	2,085	2,117
Hampshire PCT	6,893	7,822	9,065

Number of admissions via accident and emergency (A and E) of patients with an alcohol-related condition by PCT of residence

PCT name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Haringey Teaching PCT	1,813	1,851	2,118
Harrow PCT	1,381	1,511	1,635
Hartlepool PCT	846	918	1,030
Hastings and Rother PCT	1,848	1,830	1,985
Havering PCT	2,134	2,231	2,271
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	3,461	3,677	3,898
Herefordshire PCT	1,153	1,128	1,274
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	2,211	2,466	2,930
Hillingdon PCT	2,424	2,575	2,695
Hounslow PCT	1,382	2,319	2,678
Hull PCT	2,991	2,899	2,973
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	722	663	865
Islington PCT	1,922	2,084	2,093
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1,176	1,253	1,326
Kingston PCT	1,177	1,292	1,000
Kirklees PCT	2,491	2,958	3,343
Knowsley PCT	2,352	2,655	2,767
Lambeth PCT	2,881	2,566	2,354
Leeds PCT	7,072	7,485	9,047
Leicester City PCT	3,940	3,949	3,957
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	4,341	4,591	5,029
Lewisham PCT	2,103	2,480	2,646
Lincolnshire PCT	4,739	5,028	5,409
Liverpool PCT	8,485	7,585	8,134
Luton Teaching PCT	1,309	1,569	1,723
Manchester PCT	6,224	6,512	7,184
Med way Teaching PCT	1,995	2,016	2,056
Mid Essex PCT	1,749	1,878	2,216
Middlesbrough PCT	2,203	2,200	2,348
Milton Keynes PCT	685	1,656	1,494
Newcastle PCT	2,755	3,163	3,305
Newham PCT	2,590	2,586	2,742
Norfolk PCT	4,067	4,441	5,002
North East Essex PCT	1,763	1,755	2,021
North East Lincolnshire PCT	1,322	1,398	1,122
North Lancashire PCT	2,423	2,481	2,933
North Lincolnshire PCT	1,325	1,417	1,189
North Somerset PCT	1,708	1,659	2,020
North Staffordshire PCT	1,462	1,228	1,961
North Tyneside PCT	2,855	3,107	3,245
North Yorkshire and York PCT	4,894	5,053	5,566
Northamptonshire PCT	3,968	4,444	4,974
Northumberland Care Trust	3,888	3,951	4,167
Nottingham City PCT	2,332	2,504	2,908
Nottinghamshire County PCT	4,256	4,733	5,474
Oldham PCT	2,292	2,315	2,531
Oxfordshire PCT	3,044	3,596	3,613
Peterborough PCT	1,135	1,426	1,552
Plymouth Teaching PCT	2,058	2,098	2,265
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	1,762	2,052	2,229
Redbridge PCT	2,411	2,420	2,592
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	1,669	1,750	1,894
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	1,039	1,330	1,312
Rotherham PCT	2,345	2,369	2,523
Salford PCT	3,722	3,676	4,185
Sandwell PCT	3,552	3,576	3,555
Sefton PCT	3,472	3,648	3,643
Sheffield PCT	3,532	3,860	4,367
Shropshire County PCT	1,576	1,520	1,603
Solihull PCT	1,611	1,861	2,033
Somerset PCT	3,599	3,286	3,957
South Birmingham PCT	3,542	3,549	3,576
South East Essex PCT	2,606	2,987	3,239
South Gloucestershire PCT	1,800	1,672	1,777

Number of admissions via accident and emergency (A and E) of patients with an alcohol-related condition by PCT of residence

PCT name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
South Staffordshire PCT	3,393	4,155	4,812
South Tyneside PCT	1,480	1,591	1,962
South West Essex PCT	2,094	2,351	2,476
Southampton City PCT	1,408	1,640	2,067
Southwark PCT	2,284	2,436	2,326
Stockport PCT	2,895	3,071	3,325
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching	1,550	1,753	1,822
Stoke on Trent PCT	2,187	1,889	2,869
Suffolk PCT	3,858	4,114	3,988
Sunderland Teaching PCT	3,586	3,723	4,317
Surrey PCT	7,037	7,753	8,353
Sutton and Merton PCT	2,247	2,961	3,451
Swindon PCT	1,257	1,263	1,626
Tameside and Glossop PCT	2,827	3,093	3,284
Telford and Wrekin PCT	1,315	1,155	1,158
Torbay Care Trust	1,232	1,484	1,504
Tower Hamlets PCT	1,785	1,858	1,617
Trafford PCT	1,985	2,081	2,514
Wakefield District PCT	2,509	2,969	3,058
Walsall Teaching PCT	2,508	2,634	2,877
Waltham Forest PCT	2,309	2,234	2,409
Wandsworth PCT	2,146	2,308	2,347
Warrington PCT	2,508	2,611	2,673
Warwickshire PCT	3,423	3,540	4,324
West Essex PCT	2,092	2,515	2,826
West Hertfordshire PCT	2,799	3,211	3,738
West Kent PCT	4,977	5,036	5,472
West Sussex PCT	5,861	6,281	7,065
Western Cheshire PCT	2,294	2,347	2,457
Westminster PCT	1,743	1,843	1,969
Wiltshire PCT	3,126	3,033	3,495
Wirral PCT	4,859	5,318	5,296
Wolverhampton City PCT	1,731	1,732	1,728
Worcestershire PCT	3,725	4,074	4,714

Number of admissions via A and E of patients with an alcohol-related condition by strategic health authority (SHA) of residence

SHA name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
North East SHA	28,313	30,429	33,617
North West SHA	80,614	84,243	90,792
Yorkshire and The Humber SHA	40,698	43,696	47,921
East Midlands SHA	31,706	34,125	37,970
West Midlands SHA	43,109	44,923	51,386
East of England SHA	34,998	38,754	42,153
London SHA	62,574	66,351	70,287
South East Coast SHA	33,082	36,027	39,603
South Central SHA	21,431	24,388	26,839
South West SHA	35,987	36,391	41,245
Unknown/no fixed abode	7,750	9,488	8,539
England	420,263	448,813	490,354

Notes:

Includes activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

Alcohol-related conditions

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory. Figures for under 16s only include admissions where one or more of the following alcohol-specific conditions were listed:

Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (I42.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic liver disease (K70)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K86.0)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)

Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)

Number of episodes in which the patient had an alcohol-related primary or secondary diagnosis

These figures represent the number of episodes where an alcohol-related diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a HES record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if an alcohol-related diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. It should be noted that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Admissions via A and E

Includes emergency admissions via the casualty department of the provider and the A and E department of another healthcare provider (Method of admission codes 21 and 28).

Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

Secondary diagnosis

As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 19 (13 from 2002-03 to 2007-08 and six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Assignment of episodes to years

Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Bone Marrow Disorders: Donors

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 469W, on bone marrow disorders: donors, if he will consider the merits of collecting statistics on UK and non-UK bone marrow donors in order to inform the development of a UK bone marrow donor recruitment strategy. [309661]

Gillian Merron: The United Kingdom is part of the Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide network. This provides reciprocal access to over 13 million bone marrow donors and umbilical cord blood units on registries across the world.

The Department does not hold centrally statistics on the import or export of bone marrow. The most important challenge when searching for a stem cell unit for transplant is not where it comes from but whether it is a suitable match for the patient. Everyone's genetic history is complex. This means that finding a suitable match for a patient can prove very difficult, even when the international registries are used. This task is even more difficult if the condition is rare or there are other factors attributed to a patient's condition. Therefore, the value of collecting statistics on UK and non-UK bone marrow donors to inform the development of a UK bone marrow donor recruitment strategy has not been demonstrated.

Bone Marrow Disorders: Transplant Surgery

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* child patients awaiting a bone marrow transplant have died as a result of the condition necessitating the transplant in each of the last five years. [309679]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not hold this information.

Cardiovascular System: Diseases

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work his Department has carried out to develop national guidelines for primary care trusts on commissioning enhanced services for people with peripheral arterial disease. [309973]

Ann Keen: A primary care service framework was developed and published by NHS Primary Care Commissioning, in consultation with a number of stakeholders including the peripheral arterial disease (PAD) support group, Target PAD and the Department. These frameworks are specifically developed to provide support and guidance to national health service organisations (who choose to use them) to effectively commission and provide specific services.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many vascular networks there are in England; and what his Department's definition is of the *(a)* remit and *(b)* purpose of such networks; [309974]

(2) how many cardiovascular networks are undertaking activity related to *(a)* peripheral arterial disease and (b) co-ordinating network activity for peripheral arterial disease. [309975]

Ann Keen: There are 28 cardiac and stroke networks in England. The networks were set up to support implementation of the Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) National Service Framework (2000) and the national Stroke Strategy (2007). The remit of these networks is to foster joint working, support commissioning and undertake service improvement exercises, resulting in better services and improved outcomes for cardiac and stroke patients. Their purpose is to ensure that individuals experience co-ordinated care from their first contact with services through to rehabilitation and support after discharge from hospital. They are also a key vehicle for involving patients and carers as active partners in co-ordinating and supporting service development. The networks receive support from the NHS Heart Improvement Programme and the NHS Stroke Improvement Programme which are part of the wider NHS Improvement Programme. Further information about the networks is given in the CHD National Service Framework and the national Stroke Strategy, copies of which have already been placed in the Library.

The Department does not monitor the activity of the cardiac and stroke networks.

Care Homes: Disabled

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are for the future of Douglass House in Bournemouth; and if he will make a statement. [309612]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 27 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 262W.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of his Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the cost of the survey was. [309834]

Phil Hope: The Department of Health intends to publish its October 2009 staff survey results on the Department's website during March 2010. Following publication, we will place a copy of the results in the Library.

The supplier for the Department's staff survey in October 2009 was ORC International who were procured by the Cabinet Office to deliver the first cross-Civil Service People Survey. The People Survey replaced all existing staff surveys in the civil service with a single questionnaire.

The cost of the 2009-10 People Survey for the Department is £33,257. By procuring a single supplier for staff surveys in 2009-10, the civil service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008-09.

Departmental Training

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1047W, on departmental training, how many civil servants attended the overseas training course; where it was held; when it was held; and what its title was. [308987]

Phil Hope: One official from the Department attended the 'Leadership across borders: A four country programme' course which took place during 2009. This is an international leadership initiative that aims to develop leadership skills in tackling complex, global issues. The course is designed for senior public leaders and was created by the UK National School of Government, the Australian Public Service Commission (also representing New Zealand) and the Canada School of Public Service. It consists of week-long modules in the UK, Australia and Canada. It also has a view to creating a network of high potential senior leaders covering the two hemispheres.

Details of the programme are publicly available at:

www.nationalschool.gov.uk/programmes/programme.asp?id=20999

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [309912]

Phil Hope: Training is provided to Ministers on a range of issues including handling the media, as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their duties effectively under the Ministerial Code.

Drugs: Prisons

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners have participated in intensive drug treatment programmes in the last five years; and what assessment he has made of their effectiveness of such programmes. [308216]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The following table provides figures for prisoners recorded as entering accredited drug treatment programmes in 2008-09, the latest period for which figures are available. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

All accredited drug treatment programmes available in prisons are based on good practice found in the community. Evaluations to date specifically of prison drug treatment programmes run in England and Wales are limited and have not always met the highest standards of methodological robustness. However, they suggest that accredited programmes can reduce re-offending (Ramsay, M. (ed) (2003) Prisoners' Drug Use and Treatment: Seven Research Studies. Home Office Research Study 267. London: Home Office). International evidence supports these findings.

The Prison Drug Treatment Strategy Review Group has been established to oversee a complex piece of work to take forward the recommendations of PricewaterhouseCoopers' 2007 report on prison drug treatment. An assessment of the available evidence base for drug treatment in prisons will form a part of this review. A report with recommendations will be produced by the end of March 2011.

Intervention type (2008-09)	*Intervention starts (rounded to nearest 10)*
12-Step Programme	850
Therapeutic Communities	260
Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) programmes[1]	9,650
of which	
Short Duration Programme	(5,550)

Intervention type (2008-09)	*Intervention starts (rounded to nearest 10)*
Total	10,760

[1] Prisons have in place a range of CBT accredited drug programmes, including: PASRO (Prisoner Addressing Substance Related Offending), STOP (Substance Treatment and Offending Programme), FOCUS (high security prisons only) and the Short Duration Programme

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many industrial tribunals relating to his Department have been held in each of the last five years; and what the total cost to his Department was of such tribunals in each such year. [309941]

Phil Hope: There have been a very small number of employment tribunals relating to the Department in the last five years. As this is less than five in total, this information is not given on the grounds of confidentiality.

The total costs of those cases settled in favour of claimants was £3,000.

General Practitioners

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will require primary care trusts to publish a complete list of GPs with special interests; [310322]

(2) if he will take steps to increase the number of GPs with special interests in *(a)* obesity, *(b)* weight management, *(c)* nutrition, *(d)* dermatology, *(e)* sexual health, *(f)* respiratory health, *(g)* diabetes and *(h)* cardiovascular disease. [310326]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is for primary care trusts to determine the best ways of meeting the health and health care needs of their local populations, including the potential contribution of general practitioners (GPs) with special interests towards the Government's overall objective of moving care closer to patients where it is appropriate and safe to do so. It is also for primary care trusts to decide in detail what information to publish about the services available locally.

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will publish a list of GPs with special interests in *(a)* obesity, *(b)* weight management and *(c)* nutrition; [310323]

(2) how many GPs have special interests in each specialty. [310325]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on the number of general practitioners with special interests in individual specialties is not collected centrally and could not be obtained other than at disproportionate expense.

General Practitioners: Manpower

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners were employed by the NHS in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [310462]

Ann Keen: The headcount number of general practitioners (GPs) (excluding retainers) for 1997 and 2008 is shown in the following table.

GP numbers for 2009 will not be available until March 2010, when the 2009 workforce census is published.

GPs in England (excluding GP retainers and GP registrars)

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent*
1997	28,046	26,359
2008	34,010	30,675

Source:
NHS Information Centre

Since 1997, the number of doctors in training has increased by 60 per cent. to reflect the greater interest in part-time and flexible working across medicine, particularly in primary care.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP practices had extended opening hours in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [310474]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data was not collected in 1997 on numbers of general practitioner (GP) practices offering extended opening. Information last collected in July 2009 showed that 6,384 of the 8,279 GP practices in England (77.1 per cent.) had extended their opening hours, offering their patients access to routine appointments. We expect this to continue to increase.

Health Professions: Regulation

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent estimate of the *(a)* time taken to process cases and *(b)* the number of outstanding cases awaiting adjudication by the (i) General Medical Council, (ii) Nursing and Midwifery Council, (iii) Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and (iv) Health Professions Council; and if he will make a statement. [309448]

Ann Keen: The Department does not routinely collect this information. The health care profession's regulators are independent statutory bodies.

Health Services: Armed Forces

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* quality of service provision and *(b)* adequacy of funding for (i) prosthetics and (ii) orthotics care in NHS trusts given to injured (A) service and (B) non-service personnel. [309490]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Overall quality of service provision within the national health service is monitored by the Care Quality Commission and funding for prosthetic and orthotic care and services is provided within the NHS budget. The provision of care and service required by individuals, whether they be service or non-service personnel, is determined through multidisciplinary assessments to ensure clinical appropriateness. I refer the hon. Lady to the written statement made on 11 January 2010, *Official Report,* column 15WS, around medical care for veterans, in which is announced a package of measures to support service personnel, together with a guarantee of early and comprehensive assessment of long-term needs for those sustaining serious injury.

Homeopathy: Merseyside

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on NHS homeopathic treatment in Merseyside in the last year for which information is available. [309764]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what tests are available to detect *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile infection; and by what means such tests are deployed in the NHS. [309967]

Ann Keen: Diagnostic tests for the presence and illness caused by both Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus and Clostridium difficile can be divided into the following categories:

simple methods using routine culture that rely on the initial growth of the organism from a clinical specimen and may take 24 to 72 hours to produce a result;

rapid tests that may detect parts of these bacteria, such as toxins, enzymes or nucleic acids such as DNA or RNA (molecular tests) and may produce results in hours; and

combinations of these methods designed to improve performance and minimise cost.

The actual choice of test or combination of tests is a decision made by each laboratory. This decision is based on experience and national guidance, for example diagnostic methods published by the Health Protection Agency.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent progress has been made on the deployment in the NHS of new tests for *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile; and what steps he is taking to ensure the deployment in the NHS of the most accurate, rapid and cost-effective tests available. [309968]

Ann Keen: Information on the tests used by National Health Service laboratories is not collected centrally.

We provide advice and guidance to help laboratories develop testing strategies and measures taken include for:

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)

The Department has held productive discussions with the manufacturers of these testing kits and has funded research on the practical implementation of rapid molecular technology in two clinical centres.

Guidance on testing for MRSA screening.

Clostridium difficile (C. difficile) infection

Advice was issued by the Department of Health and the Health Protection Agency (HPA) on testing strategies in March 2009, following the publication of the Centre for Evidence Based Purchasing report on the performance of C. difficile test kits. The Department and HPA are currently undertaking further work to refine this guidance.

The Department has also initiated discussions with manufacturers on how they can improve the accuracy and specificity of their C. difficile testing kits.

Neurology

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* quality of care provided for neuro-disability and neuro-rehabilitation patients and *(b)* merits of a national service framework for neuro-rehabilitation. [309503]

Ann Keen: We have made no recent assessment of the quality of care for neuro-disability and neuro-rehabilitation patients, or the merits of a national service framework for neuro-rehabilitation.

NHS: Non-Profit Making Associations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS services in the East of England are considering a right to request to set up a social enterprise; how many staff employed by such services would be transferred to such an enterprise if established; and if he will make a statement. [309884]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally and is a matter for local national health service organisations.

Parkinson's Disease

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on Parkinson's Disease. [310371]

Ann Keen: We have no plans to ensure the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's clinical (NICE) guidelines on Parkinson's disease. It is the responsibility of individual health professionals to ensure they comply with all existing clinical guidelines when providing health and social care.

From April 2009, the Care Quality Commission took over from the Healthcare Commission and will consider, in discussion with stakeholders including NICE, how to take account of NICE guidance as it develops its compliance criteria.

In December 2009 I wrote to all strategic health authorities reinforcing the importance of implementing National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's guidance, and the National Service Framework for Long-term neurological Conditions in delivering high quality, accessible services for those living with Parkinson's disease.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* cancer patients and *(b)* people being treated for the effects of cancer treatment have received free prescriptions since their introduction for such patients. [310473]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A cancer patient in England is eligible to apply for a prescription charge exemption certificate if he or she is undergoing treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer or the effects of cancer treatment. However, the application process does not distinguish between these grounds for exemption. By the end of 2009, the number of valid prescription charge exemption certificate applications processed by National Health Service Business Services Authority, where cancer was the only medical condition ticked on the FP92A application form, was almost 74,000.

Primary Care Trusts: East of England

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the East of England Strategic Health Authority on the status of primary care trust (PCT) provider organisations within the PCT; and if he will make a statement. [309888]

Phil Hope: None. The Department holds monthly meetings with Transforming Community Services leads from each strategic health authority at which issues such as the future provision of community services are discussed.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

CAFCASS

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* family court advisers and *(b)* active self-employed contractors worked for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service at the latest date for which figures are available. [307417]

Dawn Primarolo: The employment and payment of staff are operational matters for CAFCASS. Nationally, as of 11 December 2009, CAFCASS had 1,291 family court advisors and 266 self-employed contractors actively working on cases.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many reviews Ofsted has undertaken in relation to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) in each CAFCASS region in the last 12 months; [307484]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of each Ofsted inspection of CAFCASS and Support Service in each year since such inspections began. [307489]

Dawn Primarolo: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 17 December 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

In April 2007 the duty to inspect Cafcass passed from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Court Administration to Ofsted. From April 2007 to mid 2008, Ofsted undertook three inspections based on the old Cafcass structure (co-terminous with the nine Government Office regions).

In December 2008 Ofsted began piloting a new framework for the inspection of Cafcass. The framework is based on inspection of a Cafcass service area, the Cafcass operational business unit, of which there are 21 across England. Ofsted will inspect all the Cafcass service areas by August 2011. As at December 2009, Ofsted has reported on seven service areas, and will report on an eighth inspection in early January 2010.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 31 December 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

From 2001 to April 2007 inspection of Cafcass was undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Court Administration (formerly HM Magistrates Court Service Inspectorate). Ofsted does not have cost data for this period.

From April 2007 to mid 2008, Ofsted undertook three inspections based on the old Cafcass structure (co-terminous with the nine Government Office regions), using the legacy inspection framework. During the summer of 2008 Ofsted developed a new framework and methodology for the inspection of Cafcass, which had re-structured into 21 service areas. Each service area will be inspected every three years.

The costs of this inspection programme to Ofsted in 2007/8 were £435,843. In 2008/9 they were £397,402. Both figures include corporate overheads and development costs, where incurred. The first three year inspection cycle will be completed by August 2011.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State for Children; Young People and Families, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Children Act 1989

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on how many occasions Section 47 statutory interventions under the Children Act 1989 were issued by Essex County Council for 16 to 18 year-olds in each of the last five years. [308341]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of section 47 inquiries carried out by each local authority is not available for individual age groups.

Children: Adoption

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been classified as having adoption in their best interest in each year since 2001. [305322]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many adopted children of each ethnicity adopted in the year ended 31 March 2009 had waited longer than *(a)* six, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 24, *(e)* 30, *(f)* 36, *(g)* 42, *(h)* 48, *(i)* 54 and *(j)* 60 months to be adopted following the decision that adoption was in their best interest. [305326]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of looked-after-children of each ethnicity adopted in the year ending 31 March 2009 who had waited longer than *(a)* six, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 24, *(e)* 30, *(f)* 36, *(g)* 42, *(h)* 48, *(i)* 54 and *(j)* 60 months to be adopted following a local authority decision that they should be placed for adoption can be found in the following table. The figures shown for the time between the local authority decision and the date of the making of the adoption order are cumulative.

Looked-after-children adopted during the year by the time between the decision that a child should be placed for adoption and the making of the adoption order, by ethnic origin[1, 2, 3], year ending 31 March 2009, coverage: England

Number

		Time between decision that a child should be placed for adoption and date of adoption									
	All children looked after adopted during the year	*Over 6 months*	*Over 12 months*	*Over 18 months*	*Over 24 months*	*Over 30 months*	*Over 36 months*	*Over 42 months*	*Over 48 months*	*Over 54 months*	*Over 60 months*
All children looked after adopted during the year	3,300	3,200	2,500	1,400	760	450	250	150	100	70	40
Ethnic origin											
White	2,700	2,600	2,000	1,100	590	350	180	100	70	40	30
Mixed	410	400	340	220	110	70	40	30	20	20	10
Asian or Asian British	70	60	50	30	10	—	—	—	0	0	0
Black or Black British	90	90	90	60	40	30	20	—	10	10	10
Other ethnic groups	20	20	10	10	10	—	—	0	0	0	0

[1] The waiting time has been calculated as the number of days between the date the LA decide adoption is in the child's best interest and the date the child is then adopted.

[2] These figures are presented on a cumulative basis e.g. a child that is included in the 'Over 12 months' category has also been included in the 'Over 6 months' category.

[3] Rounding and suppression: To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. At national level numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the table by a (—). It has been necessary to suppress other figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a suppressed number by means of simple arithmetic. The rule applied in these circumstances has been to suppress the next smallest data item provided its value is strictly less than 20.

Source:

SSDA903.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many adopted children of each age at the time of approval for adoption waited longer than *(a)* six, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 24, *(e)* 30, *(f)* 36, *(g)* 42, *(h)* 48, (i) 54 and (j) 60 months to be adopted following the decision that adoption was in their best interest in each year since 2001. [305327]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of looked after children adopted in the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2009, who had waited longer than *(a)* six, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 24, *(e)* 30, *(f)* 36, *(g)* 42, *(h)* 48, (i) 54 and (j) 60 months to be adopted following a local authority decision that they should be placed for adoption, by age at the time the decision was made that they should be placed for adoption, has been placed in the House Libraries.

The figures shown for the time between the local authority decision and the date of the making of the adoption order are cumulative.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for how many children in each local authority area adoption was determined to be in their best interest in the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available; and how many of those children were placed for adoption by *(a)* their local authority, *(b)* a private adoption agency and *(c)* a voluntary adoption agency. [305328]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of looked-after-children for whom the local authority decision was that they should be placed for adoption is not available.

Children: Social Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the average amount of time taken to complete an initial assessment of children referred to children's social care. [307423]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the average amount of time taken to complete an initial assessment of children referred to children's social care are not held centrally. We do however collect data on the percentage of initial assessments completed within seven working days of referral. In 2008-09 this figure was 72 per cent.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on furniture for use in the office assigned to him since June 2007. [302668]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: A total of £1,158.76 has been spent to acquire additional furniture for the Secretary of State's office since June 2007.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much expenditure his Department has incurred in respect of official car services for *(a)* him and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department in each quarter since June 2007. [302936]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: For financial year 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the then Secretary of State for Transport (Ruth Kelly) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 117WS.

For financial year 2008-09, I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark), on 16 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 80WS.

Early Intervention

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on early intervention; and if he will make a statement. [307947]

Dawn Primarolo: It is the Government's intention to put early intervention and prevention at the heart of children's services.

That is why we set out in the Children's Plan that by 2010,

> "we will expect Children's Trusts to have in place consistent high quality arrangements to provide identification and early intervention for all children and young people who need additional help in relation to their health, education, care and behaviour, including help for their parents as appropriate."

Over recent years there has been massive investment to support early intervention. There is now a children's centre in every neighbourhood and almost 90 per cent. of schools are delivering the 'core offer' of extended services including childcare, health services and extra-curricular activities. We are also trialling programmes such as the Family Nurse Partnerships and Family Intervention Programmes in several areas.

We will shortly publish a consultation document on early intervention to help local partners to improve the quality and consistency of support for vulnerable children and families.

Family Law

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the outcome was of the time recording exercise undertaken in 2004 on the time being spent on public and private family law cases. [308103]

Dawn Primarolo: This is an operational matter for CAFCASS. I have asked the chief executive of CAFCASS, Anthony Douglas, to respond by letter to the hon. Member. A copy of the letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Foster Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many kinship care foster placements there were in each of the last 30 years; [305361]

(2) how many *(a)* foster and *(b)* kinship care foster placements there were in each local authority area in each of the last five years. [305366]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of foster placements by local authority and type of placement for the last five years has been placed in the House Libraries. Further years can only be provided at disproportionate cost. This information is only available from 1992 onwards.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children *(a)* fostered and *(b)* adopted were placed with (i) grandparents, (ii) other relatives and (iii) friends of the family in the last 12 months. [305368]

Dawn Primarolo: The latest period for which figures are available covers the 12 months to 31 March 2009. There were 65,500 children looked after during the year ending 31 March 2009 under a foster placement; 10,500 (16 per cent.) of these were looked after by family or friends and 55,000 (84 per cent.) of these were looked after by other carers. These figures exclude those looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements. Information on the relationship of the foster carer to the child is not collected therefore it is not possible to provide the full detail requested.

Information on the relationship of adopted children to their adoptees is not collected centrally by the Department.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in what proportion of schools in each index of multiple deprivation decile less than 30 per cent. of pupils obtained five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics but excluding equivalents in the *(a)* earliest and *(b)* most recent year for which figures are available. [310369]

Mr. Coaker: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Home Education

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department will publish its analysis of the responses to its consultation on the Badman Report on elective home education in England. [310388]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The response to the "Home Education: registration and monitoring proposals" public consultation was published on 11 January 2010. It can be found on the Department's Consultation Unit website on:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?menu=3&title=Archive%20and%20results

Pre-School Education: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to extend the free entitlement to early education to two-year-olds who live in families with modest and middle incomes. [305175]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government will continue to make progress on the long-term ambition set out by the Prime Minister to extend the offer of free part time nursery places for all two-year-olds whose parents want them. Already over 20,000 two-year-olds have access to free places and the reforms we are making to tax relief for child care vouchers will allow us to go further.

Social Services: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much Leeds social services spent on children's services in each year since 2001. [306931]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information on how much Leeds local authority spent on children's social care in each year since 2001 is shown in the following table:

Gross expenditure on children's services from 2001-02 to 2007-08

	Gross expenditure (£000)
2001-02	58,616
2002-03	62,347
2003-04	70,449
2004-05	77,987
2005-06	81,675
2006-07	98,130
2007-08	107,542

Notes:

1. Responsibility for collecting financial information on local authority spend on children's social function was passed to the DCSF in 2008-09.

2. Figures used in this PQ answer were obtained from the Department of Health.

Supervised Homes

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many places in supervised homes were available for 16-and 17-year-olds in each month of the last two years. [308793]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to answer Question *(a)* 3202667, *(b)* 302668, *(c)* 302936, *(d)* 303105 and *(e)* 303139, tabled on 25 November 2009. [310373]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: Parliamentary questions 302668 and 302936 have been answered today. PQs 303105, 303139 and 302667 will be answered in due course.

I apologise for the delay in answering these parliamentary questions.

JUSTICE

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much (i) his Department and its predecessors and (ii) each of its agencies and non-departmental public bodies has recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [309295]

Mr. Straw: Administrative financial penalties arise where a Department has the authority to charge a financial penalty without the need to resort to court proceedings. They exclude interest charged on late payment of invoices.

The Ministry of Justice's statutory powers to impose administrative penalties are confined to the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner (LSCC, an office of the Ministry of Justice) and the Legal Services Board (LSB, an executive non-departmental public body).

The Legal Services Complaints Commissioner (LSCC)

The Legal Services Complaints Commissioner (LSCC) had the power under section 52 of the Access to Justice Act 1999 to require the Law Society to provide information on how it deals with complaints, to make recommendations about the complaints system, and to set targets for complaints handling. In addition, the Commissioner previously had the power to require the Law Society to submit a plan for improved complaints handling and to levy a penalty on the Law Society if it failed to deliver an adequate plan or failed in the delivery of that plan. These powers were reduced in April 2009 in preparation for the closure of the Commissioner's office in March 2010. The maximum penalty that could be imposed was the lower of £1 million and 1 per cent. of the annual income of the Law Society.

In 2006-07 the Commissioner exercised this power and imposed a penalty of £250,000, later reduced to £220,000. In 2007-2008 the Commissioner announced that she was considering imposing a penalty of £275,000 for failure to meet her targets. However, following a series of discussions with the Law Society, a regulatory settlement was agreed which meant that the penalty was invested in client care measures by the Law Society.

The Legal Services Board (LSB)

The new Legal Services Board (LSB), regulating legal services provision by approved regulators, became fully operational from 1 January 2010. The LSB has a range of enforcement powers available to it under sections 31-48 of the Legal Services Act 2007. Its power to impose a financial penalty on approved regulators under section 37 of the Act is subject to the requirement that the LSB makes rules prescribing the maximum financial penalty. The LSB has prescribed the maximum financial penalty it may impose on an approved regulator as 5 per cent. of an approved regulator's regulatory income for its most recent accounting period.

All other penalties levied by the department or its agencies are through the courts.

Departmental Travel

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mode of transport Ministers and officials of his Department used to travel to each of the deliberative events on British values; and in what class those who travelled to such events by rail travelled. [306702]

Mr. Wills: The means of transport and costs are set out in the following table.

Table showing the mode of transport Ministers and MoJ officials used to travel to each of the deliberative events (including details of what class they travelled to each event)

	Date	Minister	MoJ Officials	Mode of travel	Type of class travelled	Costs to MoJ (£)
Regional events						
London	17 October 2009	1	—	Return taxi/London underground	n/a	72.64
London	17 October 2009	—	6	Overground rail/London underground/bicycle	n/a	[1]—

Table showing the mode of transport Ministers and MoJ officials used to travel to each of the deliberative events (including details of what class they travelled to each event)

	Date	*Minister*	*MoJ Officials*	*Mode of travel*	*Type of class travelled*	*Costs to MoJ (£)*
Sheffield	24 October 2009	1	—	Car—Government spokesperson was local MP and was given a lift to the event.	n/a	0
Sheffield	24 October 2009	—	4	Rail	Standard class returns	357.50
Cardiff	24 October 2009	1	—	Ministerial car	n/a	0
Cardiff	24 October 2009	—	3	Rail	Standard class returns	215.00
Edinburgh	31 October 2009	1	—	Ministerial car to and from Glasgow	n/a	0
Edinburgh	31 October 2009	—	3	Plane and rail (three return flights plus Gatwick Express train for two officials).	Plane economy class returns. Rail standard class returns.	699.77
Gateshead	31 October 2009	[2]—	—	—		
Gateshead	31 October 2009	—	3	Plane and rail (two x MoJ officials travelled by rail, one x MoJ official took return flight to Newcastle from Heathrow).	Rail—standard class returns. Plane—Euro class.	542.00
Reconvened events						
Gateshead	21 November 2009	1	—	Personal car	n/a	0
Gateshead	21 November 2009	—	5	Plane and rail—(two x MoJ officials—one way flights to Newcastle—return trip from Newcastle to London by train).	Rail—three x standard class returns. One x standard class one way, one x first class one way. Flights—one x world traveller/one x economy.	1,015.19
Birmingham	28 November 2009	1	—	Rail	First class returns	61.50
Birmingham	28 November 2009	—	5	Rail	Three x standard and two x first class returns	406.00
Total costs	—	—	—	—		3,369.60

[1] No travel costs claimed as officials used season tickets

[2] No Minister.

Elections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment has been made of the potential effect on levels of electoral fraud of general election counts taking place the day after polling. [308305]

Mr. Wills: Under section 10 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Electoral Commission is responsible for producing advice and guidance for electoral administrators to follow at UK parliamentary elections. The Electoral Commission has issued advice for (acting) returning officers that security procedures must be in place for the storage of ballot boxes and the ballot papers, where there is a break in proceedings or where they have decided to count on Friday. The decision as to the timing of the count at an election is for the relevant returning officer.

Under section 5 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Electoral Commission is required to produce a report on the administration of each general election in the UK. The Government will study this carefully and respond to any issues that emerge.

Electoral Register

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reasons are for the time taken to implement the CORE electoral registration programme. [308406]

Mr. Wills: A detailed specification for the Co-ordinated On-line Record of Electors (CORE) has been completed. However, the Government have paused the CORE project to allow time for the detailed arrangements for supporting the implementation of individual electoral registration to be developed, since individual electoral registration may impact on the design of the CORE system. In the meantime, work has continued on the implementation of electoral registration data standards. I wrote to the Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Scottish National Parties and Plaid Cymru on 24 July 2009 setting out these considerations in more detail.

Electoral Register: Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to the public purse of the *(a)* LASER and *(b)* CORE electoral registration projects have been to date. [308816]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer of 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1653W.

It is not possible to accurately quantify the cost of the LASER project as not all the information is available. This project pre-dated the CORE electoral registration project and was managed by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. No capital costs were incurred.

The cost of the CORE project to date, excluding staff costs, is £3,760,981. The increase since my previous answer is attributable to £676,333 grant in aid for local authorities to support the implementation of electoral registration data standards and £5,000 for the market testing of possible procurement options.

This expenditure will produce benefits for electoral registration generally, by improving the accuracy and utility of the data within the local authority, and there are also potential benefits for the development of individual registration, irrespective of whether or not CORE goes ahead.

Family Law Act 1996

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for an occupational order under sections 33 to 41 of the Family Law Act 1996 have been *(a)* made and *(b)* granted in each year since their introduction. [310380]

Bridget Prentice: The following tables show the number of occupation orders applied for, and the number of occupation orders granted, in each court area in each year since 2003. The data are taken from the HMCS FamilyMan database and the applications figures do not include applications for arrest warrants.

Occupation orders applied for in England and Wales, by court area, 2003-08

Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	216	230	215	243	215	180
Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts	680	547	575	493	451	413
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	330	345	258	225	220	227
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	476	453	449	377	329	294
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	406	385	391	343	344	309
Cheshire and Merseyside	413	369	334	314	227	230
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	686	625	591	646	532	384
Cumbria and Lancashire	354	316	325	323	260	199
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	245	217	197	182	142	125
Devon and Cornwall	465	405	385	355	360	299
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	419	404	372	284	247	283
Greater Manchester	311	274	292	300	232	188
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	424	369	383	389	328	288
Humber and South Yorkshire	523	456	402	330	323	312
Kent	326	304	270	215	244	250
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and Northamptonshire	268	292	273	242	247	260
London Civil and Family	2,970	2,474	2,590	2,419	2,098	2,021
Mid and West Wales	138	106	109	99	95	88
North and West Yorkshire	593	573	576	650	618	501
North Wales	133	101	104	70	54	93
South East Wales	173	150	131	104	115	97
Surrey and Sussex	524	444	468	445	370	402
Thames Valley	487	400	352	336	300	295
England and Wales	11,560	10,239	10,042	9,384	8,351	7,738

Occupation orders made in England and Wales, by court area, 2003-08

Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	155	170	149	166	161	123
Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts	419	349	372	279	320	324
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	223	283	240	239	247	157
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	545	447	425	373	304	185
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	267	301	336	295	292	184
Cheshire and Merseyside	435	374	418	287	192	148
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	719	551	615	710	513	242
Cumbria and Lancashire	417	446	427	306	281	147
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	184	116	111	131	151	92
Devon and Cornwall	450	380	366	294	325	171
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	473	401	306	241	252	247
Greater Manchester	310	248	263	245	184	115
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	257	265	294	291	233	123

Occupation orders made in England and Wales, by court area, 2003-08

Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Humber and South Yorkshire	409	302	298	253	211	175
Kent	272	285	217	169	178	162
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and Northamptonshire	268	332	269	288	278	159
London Civil and Family	3,175	2,489	2,224	1,965	1,627	1,377
Mid and West Wales	115	68	80	[illegible]	92	75
North and West Yorkshire	437	417	464	543	437	328
North Wales	124	90	98	52	47	62
South East Wales	181	157	113	103	95	61
Surrey and Sussex	472	350	422	349	267	151
Thames Valley	486	347	378	328	258	291
England and Wales	10,793	9,168	8,885	7,979	6,945	5,099

Area level figures are not available before 2003. However, the following table gives, for each year from 1998 to 2002, the most recently published national figures.

Occupation orders applied for, and made, in England and Wales between 1998 and 2002

	Applications made	*Orders made*
1998	11,147	9,023
1999	9,757	8,319
2000	10,295	9,736
2001	10,692	9,789
2002	11,924	11,763

General Election 2010: Young People

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps have been taken to encourage 18 to 24 year-olds to vote in the next general election. [309860]

Mr. Wills: Section 69 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 places local electoral officers under a duty to encourage participation at statutory elections. The Government have established the electoral participation fund to support electoral officers undertaking novel and innovative projects, including activities to support the participation of young people.

In addition, under section 13 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the Electoral Commission has a statutory responsibility to run public awareness campaigns to promote voter registration and to provide information on electoral events. I have been informed by the Electoral Commission that they will be running a public awareness campaign in the lead up to the next general election to encourage people to register to vote. By selecting particular media channels, the campaign will be targeted at groups less likely to be on the electoral register, particularly 18 to 24 year-olds. The campaign will include television, radio and press advertising, along with work on social networking websites. Through its partnership grants programme, the Electoral Commission has also funded other organisations working to increase democratic participation among young people, including Banardos, the Prince's Trust and UK Youth Parliament.

Homicide

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those convicted of murder since 1997 have been placed in open prisons; and how many such offenders have escaped. [302916]

Maria Eagle: Figures on the number of prisoners convicted of murder since 1997 who have been placed in open conditions is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by accessing the individual record of each such prisoner.

Transfer of any prisoner to open conditions will only take place if continued detention in closed conditions is no longer necessary for the protection of the public. Open conditions allow prisoners to find work, re-establish family ties and reintegrate into the community. All these are essential components for successful resettlement and an important factor in protecting the public.

Data on absconds from open prison by index offence type have been recorded centrally since 1 April 2004. Between April 2004 and November 2009, 69 prisoners convicted of murder have absconded from open prisons. Three of these prisoners are recorded as still being at large.

The rate of abscond from open prisons continues to fall and absconds are now at their lowest level since centralised reporting of this type of incident began in 1995.

Hotels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hotel room nights were booked by officials in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 2007; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies spent on fees of third-party agents in relation to booking hotel accommodation in each such year. [309319]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is set out as follows:

Number of rooms booked

The number of hotel rooms booked by the Ministry and its agencies can only be determined at disproportionate cost. Although bookings should normally be made through contracted booking agents, they may also be made by individuals directly with the costs being reimbursed through expense claims or met through the Government Procurement Card. To determine the number of hotel night rooms booked by individuals directly would involve examination of thousands of individual claims and statements held locally across the department and its agencies.

All hotel bookings by Ministers and civil servants are undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively. The annual departmental resource accounts disclose expenditure on "travel, subsistence and hospitality" in notes 10 (administration expenditure) and 11 (programme expenditure). Resource accounts were published by the Ministry of Justice for 2007-08 and 2008-09 and prior to that by the Ministry's predecessor, the Department for Constitutional Affairs. All published accounts can be found at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/

Fees paid to booking agents

The majority of hotel bookings are arranged through travel management companies employed by the Ministry to obtain best value for money options. All other expenditure is incurred only on production of valid receipts.

The Ministry has contracts with two designated booking agents working for different parts of the business. Booking agents are contracted to secure the best value for money rates available. The Ministry does not pay fees directly to either service provider. The booking agents are remunerated instead through commission paid by the hotels themselves. The Ministry does not have any details about the amount of commission earned by booking agents acting in its behalf.

Legal Services Commission: Chesterfield

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many Legal Services Commission matter starts for *(a)* welfare benefit, *(b)* housing, *(c)* employment, *(d)* debt, *(e)* immigration, *(f)* community care and *(g)* family law cases in Chesterfield were given in each of the last five years; and how many such starts are being offered in the current rounds of bidding. [310375]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Matter starts for the last five years

Figures for the number of new matter starts allocated in the categories specified for the last five years are shown in the table. The figures shown include all solicitor and not-for-profit offices in Chesterfield.

Data	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Community care	15	7	0	0	0
Debt	260	286	327	362	413
Employment	85	107	222	312	351
Housing	229	270	331	376	550
Immigration asylum	0	7	7	8	12
Immigration non-asylum	12	30	33	47	54
Family	1,469	1,257	1,171	1,359	1,199
Welfare benefit	281	333	254	197	198

Due to the way in which the LSC contracted with not-for-profit offices prior to October 2007 the figures included for these providers prior to that time are actual cases started rather than matter starts allocated.

Matter starts for the current bid rounds

The new civil contract is due to begin in October 2010. The bid rounds for Immigration Services opened on 30 November 2009. New matter starts are now being allocated by procurement area rather than bid zone. For immigration services, Chesterfield is included in the midlands and east of England region. 9,340 asylum new matter starts and 7,990 non-asylum new matter starts have been made available in the current tender.

Bid rounds for all other civil services are due to open in February. Future allocations are in the process of being finalised and will be published in February 2010.

Non-molestation Orders

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many applications for a non-molestation order have been *(a)* made and *(b)* granted in each court area in each year since their introduction. [310379]

Bridget Prentice: The following tables show the number of non-molestation orders applied for, and the number of non-molestation orders granted, in each court area in each year since 2003. The data are taken from the HMCS FamilyMan database and the applications figures do not include applications for arrest warrants.

Non-molestation orders applied for in England and Wales, by court area, 2003-08

Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007**	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	509	459	456	499	437	481
Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts	864	760	771	685	707	851
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	543	565	456	436	398	446
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	792	778	728	674	564	626
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	582	600	580	522	531	528
Cheshire and Merseyside	608	571	512	500	433	516
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	1,319	1,221	1,198	1,342	1,231	1,285
Cumbria and Lancashire	585	570	588	592	575	553
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	395	332	309	317	316	340
Devon and Cornwall	689	562	501	479	474	428
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	646	581	497	444	411	533
Greater Manchester	591	545	531	545	431	402

Non-molestation orders applied for in England and Wales, by court area, 2003-08

Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	544	545	529	518	501	462
Humber and South Yorkshire	1,084	924	910	868	806	751
Kent	503	482	424	341	364	472
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and Northamptonshire	404	451	411	391	411	471
London Civil and Family	4,578	4,624	4,825	4,616	4,272	4,747
Mid and West Wales	215	149	164	150	159	136
North and West Yorkshire	1,264	1,244	1,357	1,418	1,426	1,599
North Wales	199	160	157	125	110	147
South East Wales	262	251	184	170	196	181
Surrey and Sussex	748	635	705	691	610	695
Thames Valley	675	565	539	562	508	491
England and Wales	18,599	17,574	17,332	16,885	15,871	17,141

Non-molestation orders made in England and Wales, by court area, 2003-08

Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	578	523	524	561	491	541
Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts.	851	795	787	715	772	946
Birmingham, Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire	505	734	671	613	600	537
Black Country, Staffordshire and West Mercia	1,158	1,121	1,012	969	781	773
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk	760	837	831	808	742	647
Cheshire and Merseyside	934	777	793	695	561	596
Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria	1,977	1,839	1,843	2,015	1,783	1,541
Cumbria and Lancashire	1,018	1,055	1,084	908	856	792
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	506	406	390	434	422	413
Devon and Cornwall	1,044	793	614	548	522	417
Dorset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	827	758	611	609	564	627
Greater Manchester	862	745	720	722	503	374
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	519	583	569	565	501	350
Humber and South Yorkshire	1,075	1,047	1,098	1,051	919	707
Kent	659	666	580	466	453	445
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and Northamptonshire	511	579	568	571	534	321
London Civil and Family	6,762	6,285	6,046	5,752	5,253	5,707
Mid and West Wales	299	189	184	172	199	132
North and West Yorkshire	1,823	1,779	1,757	1,958	1,814	1,987
North Wales	333	264	261	140	125	133
South East Wales	305	301	198	205	189	153
Surrey and Sussex	983	813	882	796	635	655
Thames Valley	944	834	828	747	600	573
England and Wales	25,233	23,723	22,851	22,020	19,819	19,367

Area level figures are not available before 2003. However, the following table gives, for each year from 1998 to 2002, the most recently published national figures.

Non-molestation orders applied for, and made, in England and Wales between 1998 and 2002

	Applications made	*Orders made*
1998	18,153	19,365
1999	16,908	18,465
2000	15,734	18,293
2001	17,590	20,968
2002	19,131	24,999

Open Prisons

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 800W, on open prisons, how many prisoners convicted of murder are being held at each open prison. [306327]

Mr. Straw: The following table gives the numbers of prisoners detained for murder at each open prison in England and Wales, as at 30 June 2009 the last date at which data are available:

	Number
Askham Grange	10
Ford	25
Hollesley Bay	20
Kirkham	30
Leyhill	50
North Sea Camp	25
Prescoed	15
Spring Hill	15
Standford Hill	10
Sudbury	60
Sutton Park	5
Total	260

The total number of prisoners convicted of murder and in prison was around 4,900 at the end of June 2009. The figure in the open estate is therefore 5 per cent. of the total. There have been open prisons since 1936 and they are widely accepted as the most effective means of ensuring prisoners are tested in the community before they are released. To release prisoners directly from a closed prison without the resettlement benefits of the open estate would undoubtedly lead to higher levels of post-release reoffending.

Prisoners are assessed objectively in a process looking at all aspects of their offending behaviour, actions they have taken to reduce their likelihood of reoffending and the risk they pose to the public. They are placed in the lowest security category consistent with their assessed risk. Only prisoners placed in the lowest security category (D) may be allocated to open conditions. If their behaviour becomes a cause for concern, they can be moved back to more secure conditions.

Prisoners convicted of murderer serving life sentences and other indeterminate sentence prisoners will be transferred from closed to open prison conditions only following the acceptance of a Parole Board recommendation to the Secretary of State. Before making such a recommendation, the Parole Board must be satisfied that the case meets the criteria set out in the directions to the Parole Board under section 32(6) of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, of which the risk of abscond is a central factor.

Transfer of any prisoner to open conditions will only take place if continued detention in closed conditions is no longer necessary for the protection of the public. Open conditions allow prisoners to find work, re-establish family ties and reintegrate into the community. All these are essential components for successful resettlement and an important factor in protecting the public.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. Totals for each prison have been rounded to the nearest five and the grand total to the nearest 10; separately rounded sub-totals may not add to the rounded total.

Prisoners: Ex-servicemen

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department plans to produce statistics on the number of former servicemen and women who are currently either serving a custodial sentence or the subject of community supervision. [308851]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Defence's Defence Analytical Services and Advice has undertaken an exercise to match Ministry of Justice data on prisoners in England and Wales with the MoD database of service leavers to establish the numbers of armed forces veterans in custody. The analysis indicates that almost 3 per cent. of the prison population in England and Wales were former armed forces personnel. We are exploring the feasibility and cost of extending the data matching to encompass those subject to community supervision.

Prisons: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many investigations took place under Prison Service Order 1300 in each year since 2000; and what offences triggered such investigations. [308959]

Maria Eagle: Information on the number of formal investigations conducted under Prison Service Order 1300 in each year since 2000, and the categories (including disciplinary offences) of these investigations, is provided in the following table[1].

HR processes including investigations have been centralised and are managed by the NOMS National Shared Service Centre (SSC). The former Investigation Support Section (ISS) started to transfer its role to the SSC in January 2008 on a region by region basis. This was completed by February 2009.

During this time the business took the opportunity to review the categories under which investigations were recorded with a view to improving the data held. As such at the point of transfer to the SSC a number of new categories were created under which investigations could be registered. Therefore, any fluctuations shown in the table, particularly significant increases or decreases between 2008 and 2009, are a result of the creation of the new categories and improvements made by the business in the collation of such data from the NOMS estate. The overall trend relating to the total numbers of formally registered investigations has remained fairly consistent for at least six years.

Categories	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Absence from duty	9	40	41	73	63	54	39	60	65	4
Abuse of sick leave	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Abusive language/behaviour towards prisoners	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	39
Abusive language/behaviour towards staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	54
Abusive language/behaviour towards the public/visitors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Action or negligence which caused/contributed to the loss, damage or injury to the service/individual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	150
Allegations of a racist nature	24	77	52	90	84	71	73	80	69	4
Allegations of a sectarian nature	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Allegations of a sexual/sexist nature	13	36	26	60	42	39	19	27	27	3
Any other serious incident not covered above	30	122	55	81	6	4	0	0	1	0
Assault (no prisoner involvement)	1	8	14	15	13	13	16	22	10	6
Assault on staff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8

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[1] This information is based on data extracted from a central investigations database and data provided by the National Offender Management Service—National Shared Service Centre (SSC) during December 2009.

Categories	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Assault of the public/visitor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Assault on prisoner	43	121	125	232	122	102	72	93	109	136
Asleep on duty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9
Attempted escape	1	9	5	12	9	13	5	9	6	0
Attempted suicide/self harm	0	4	6	12	7	1	0	0	3	0
Barricade or prevention of access	0	0	0	1	3	3	0	1	0	0
Bomb threats or explosions	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Breach of flexible working hours procedures	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Breaches of security	10	47	58	115	123	97	109	157	187	173
Bringing discredit on the Prison Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
Circumstances surrounding a death in custody	30	60	69	126	83	6	1	2	4	0
Concerted indiscipline by prisoners	1	5	8	15	9	8	2	4	3	1
Corruption	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Death of a prisoner from natural causes or death of any other person	5	23	39	35	39	8	2	1	0	0
Deliberate and very serious damage to prison property	0	0	1	4	2	2	0	5	2	0
Discovery or presence of a firearm, ammunition or CS spray	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Duplicate	0	0	0	60	10	22	23	13	5	0
Escape from a closed establishment	4	12	17	16	12	7	6	3	3	0
Escape from an escort	5	7	8	18	11	8	5	9	3	0
Exploitation of working relationship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Failure to obey lawful and reasonable order or written instruction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	39
Failure to report misconduct of others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Financial affairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
Fraud	12	17	12	46	49	28	37	26	42	0
Harassment—staff	16	64	57	101	111	61	47	49	85	117
Hostage	0	9	7	7	3	5	2	4	1	0
Inappropriate behaviour between staff	0	2	21	84	62	112	87	104	136	6
Inappropriate relationships	13	26	35	77	60	63	66	56	44	52
Inappropriate relationships with a prison visitor/relative of a prisoner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Inappropriate treatment of prisoners	5	2	28	84	118	66	70	108	124	7
Investigation suspended/void	5	61	97	89	41	116	116	135	112	1
Key or lock compromise	15	47	49	87	71	62	74	78	85	2
Making/prompting false statements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14
Membership of a racist organisation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Misuse of Information Technology	0	1	2	8	35	35	19	39	49	68
Negligence likely to endanger the security of the establishment/ escape of a prisoner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	148
Non/poor performance of duties	0	2	23	100	128	232	202	155	114	6
Police caution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	37
Poor time keeping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Racial harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	50
Refusing an order	0	2	9	20	36	17	23	28	20	1
Release in error	1	8	10	21	16	17	11	12	9	0
Roof climbing	0	0	3	10	3	5	1	4	1	0
Serious allegations against senior staff member	3	14	1	5	2	4	0	2	8	0
Sexual harassment/assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	25
Significant drug find (not positive MDT result)	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	2	1	0
Staff on criminal charges not covered above	4	21	14	60	50	51	51	73	84	63

Categories	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Theft	4	9	22	46	37	22	30	11	34	49
Trafficking	3	5	11	6	13	20	28	36	17	15
Unauthorised absence (AWOL) or lateness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	57
Unauthorised disclosure of non-protectively marked information to a 3rd party in breach of professional confidentiality	3	15	3	5	7	3	13	2	2	0
Unauthorised disclosure of protectively marked information to a third party	2	0	0	10	7	5	5	16	14	17
Unauthorised secondary employment	0	1	5	6	15	16	0	7	6	13
Unfit for duty	0	5	7	12	12	2	10	20	2	1
Unprofessional conduct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	202
Total	262	883	948	1,850	1,516	1,401	1,267	1,455	1,642	1,638

Notes:

1. Information has been collated according to the calendar year 1 January through 31 December.
2. Since 1 April 2004 the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) registers, investigates and produces reports about all deaths in prison custody.
3. A number of new 'categories' were created by the SSC during 2008-09 and account for the nil returns in a number of categories between 2000-07.

Rendition

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will now respond to the proposals put forward by the hon. Member for Chichester for draft legislation on extraordinary rendition. [310113]

Mr. Straw: I wrote to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) on 14 December in response to proposals contained in a consultation paper by the all party parliamentary group to tighten the criminal law with respect to the practice of extraordinary rendition. I said then that I had asked officials across Government to study the consultation paper carefully, and added that it would be helpful to see any responses to the consultation as we can feed those into that work. I have today placed a copy of my letter of 14 December in the Libraries of both Houses.

Reoffenders: Young People

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 48W, on young offender institutes, how many re-offences were committed by young people released from custody in each year since 2000. [310260]

Maria Eagle: Juvenile reoffending covers those aged 10 to 17. A release from custody could be from a Secure Training Centre, a Secure Children's Home or a Young Offender Institution. It is not possible to separate out the figures for the different kinds of establishments.

Table 1 presents the juvenile custody reoffending rates from 2000-07. The frequency rate (number of offences per 100 offenders) is based on the actual number of offences the cohort committed during the one-year follow up period which resulted in a conviction at court or caution. The actual proven one-year frequency reoffending rate is produced by calculating the number of proven reoffences per 100 offenders.

Table 1: One year reoffending rates for offenders aged under 18 discharged from custody, 2000, 2002-07

Cohort	*Number of offenders*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders*
2000 Q1	912	482.1
2002 Q1	959	465.9
2003 Q1	786	442.5
2004 Q1	815	414.8
2005 Q1	844	409.5
2006 Q1	817	404.0
2007 Q1	778	359.0

Please note that reoffending data are not available for 2001 due to a problem with archived data on court orders. Since it will not substantially increase the knowledge on the current-progress on reoffending, no resources have been allocated to fix this problem.

For information on the latest juvenile re-offending statistics please consult:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/reoffending-iuveniles-2007.pdf

Road Safety Act 2006

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have been *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* charged with and *(c)* convicted of causing death by careless driving under the Road Safety Act 2006 in each year since the Act came into force; [302769]

(2) how many people have been *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* charged with and *(c)* convicted of causing death by dangerous driving in each of the last five years. [302770]

Maria Eagle: The Home Office collect data on arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) broken down at a main offence group level only, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. Due to the way the data are collected and held, it is not possible separately to identify the number of arrests made for death by careless or dangerous driving.

The Road Safety Act 2006 came into force on 18 August 2008. Court proceedings data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Information showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for causing death by dangerous driving in

England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be viewed in the following table.

The Ministry of Justice do not collect charging data, proceeded against data have been provided in lieu.

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for causing death by dangerous driving[1], England and Wales, 2003-07[2, 3]

		Number
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*
2003	299	233
2004	287	241
2005	273	255
2006	269	223
2007	276	233

[1] Under Section 1 of the 1988 Road Traffic Act as added by section 1 of the 1991 Road Traffic Act.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Shoplifting: Sentencing

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representation he has received on sentencing policy for people convicted of offences of theft from shops. [309316]

Mr. Straw: We have received no recent representations on sentencing policy for people convicted of offences of theft from shops. In December 2008, following full public consultation, the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council issued definitive guidelines on theft and burglary in a building other than a dwelling.

Young Offenders: Community Orders

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of young offenders given a community sentence have *(a)* breached that order and *(b)* received a custodial sentence as a result in each month of the last three years. [308786]

Maria Eagle: Data on breaches of community sentences by under-18s is not available centrally and will not be published until improvements have been made to the submissions of this data to the Ministry of Justice. Therefore it is not possible to provide the proportion of young offenders who receive a custodial sentence for breaching a community sentence.

Published data shows that there were 2,139 receptions of offenders aged 15 to 24 into prison establishments in England and Wales in 2008 as a result of community sentence breaches.

This information can be found in 6.12 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2008, a copy of which has been placed in the House of Commons Library and which can also be found at the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Youth Custody

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many accommodation units there are in each *(a)* secure children's home, *(b)* secure training centre and *(c)* young offender institution; how many young offenders each unit accommodates; and how many staff work in each unit. [308813]

Maria Eagle: The following tables show the number of accommodation units at each secure children's home (SCH), secure training centre (STC) and young offender institution (YOI), the capacity of each establishment and the total staff numbers in each establishment.

Most SCHs which accommodate young people sentenced or remanded by the courts also accept young people in the care of a local authority who are placed there on welfare grounds. As the two groups of young people are accommodated together, in the same units, the table shows the total capacity for homes and total staffing numbers. SCHs which accommodate only young people placed on welfare grounds are not included.

It is not possible to provide separate staffing figures for under-18 YOIs or to disaggregate figures for units sited with over-21 establishments. The table shows data for all establishments that accommodate 15-17 year olds or 18-20 year olds, either on separate sites or co-located on split sites.

The data has been supplied by the Youth Justice Board and the National Offender Management Service and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Secure Children's Homes

	Number of units	*Total capacity of establishment (inc. welfare places)*	*Total number of staff at establishment*
Aldine House	1	8	21
Aycliffe	4	38	135
Barton Moss	3	20	85
Clayfields	3	18	55
East Moor	3	36	115
Hillside	3	18	83
Lincolnshire	1	9	49
Red Bank	3	29	130
Swanwick	2	16	43
Vinney Green	2	24	86

Note:

The data for this table have been provided by the YJB.

Secure Training Centres

	Number of units	*Total capacity of establishment*	*Total number of staff at establishment*
Rainsbrook	13	87	255
Medway	16	76	275
Oakhill	8	80	245
Hassockfield	7	52	180

Note:

The data for this table have been provided by the YJB

Young Offender Institutions

	Category[1]	*Number of units*	*Total capacity of establishment (inc. all 15-20 year old places)*	*Total number of staff at establishment*[1 2]
Ashfield (contracted)	YP	7	357	439
Aylesbury	YO	7	422	308
Brinsford	Y07YP	9	544	403
Castington	Y07YP	7	408	385
Cookham Wood	YP	3	108	228
Deerbolt	YO	9	513	352
Feltham	YO/YP	16	662	740
Glen Parva	YO	10	808	473
Hindley	YP	5	390	447
Huntercombe	YP	5	365	285
Lancaster Farms	YO	4	530	395
Northallerton	YO	2	251	136
Portland	YO	8	555	392
Reading	YO	4	253	189
Rochester	YO	8	724	463
Stoke Heath	YO/YP	7	692	445
Swinfen Hall	YO	9	654	398
Thorn Cross	YO	6	310	206
Warren Hill	YP	5	214	242
Werrington	YP	3	162	1[illegible]
Wetherby	YP	7	408	37[illegible]

[1] YO = Young offender establishment (18-20 year-olds). YP = Young people establishment (15-17 year-olds)

[2] Headcount (part-time staff count as one)

Note:

The data in this table have been provided by NOMS.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Broadband

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the average speed of broadband services available in rural areas. [304042]

Mr. Timms: This Department has not made an estimate of the average speed of broadband services available in rural areas. However, Ofcom's UK Broadband Speeds 2009 report (published July 2009) indicated that the average download speed in rural areas was 3.3 Mbps.

Broadband: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from *(a)* the public purse and *(b)* the European Union budget will be provided under the new fund announced by the Secretary of State to install the next generation of fibre optic cable broadband in Wales in each financial year up to 2016-17. [310508]

Mr. Timms: We expect the proposed landline duty to provide £150 million to £175 million per year to support investment in next generation broadband infrastructure, until 2017. The distribution of funds to support investment in particular areas is yet to be determined. No European funds have been allocated to this programme.

Business: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses in the London Borough of Bexley have received a health check from Business Link. [308451]

Ms Rosie Winterton: 90 businesses in the London borough of Bexley have received a health check from Business Link in London from November 2008 to November 2009.

Business: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many small businesses in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* Leeds, West constituency have applied for financial assistance under the (i) Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme and (ii) Capital Enterprise scheme since their inception; and how many such applications were granted. [305987]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As of 9 December, 79 small businesses within Leeds have been offered loans under the Enterprise Finance Guarantee totalling £8.6 million. Within the constituency of Leeds, West seven businesses have been offered loans totalling £0.43 million.

Businesses may apply for a loan from any one of the participating lenders who will assess which form of lending, including the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, is most appropriate. We do not hold figures for those businesses which are instead offered a normal commercial loan, or are rejected for failing to meet the lender's commercial criteria.

As of 9 December, with respect to the £75 million Capital for Enterprise Fund equity scheme, the appointed fund managers have so far made offers totalling £73.2 million to 47 businesses. 11 businesses have accepted the terms of the funding offered with a total value of £17.0 million. 12 businesses have received investment totalling £17.7 million, including two in the Yorkshire and Humber region. I am not providing a breakdown by parliamentary constituency or local authority as this could make it possible to identify the individual companies that have received support.

Caparo Group

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills with which companies of the Caparo Group his Department holds contracts. [303106]

Mr. McFadden: Central BIS records indicate that the Department holds no contracts with Caparo Group companies.

An element of historic former-DIUS financial records are maintained by DCSF who advise that contract details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of his Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the cost of the survey was. [310233]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, BIS, will be publishing its October 2009 staff survey results on the BIS website in February 2010. Following publication we will place a copy of the results in the Libraries of the House.

The supplier for the BIS staff survey in October 2009 was ORC International who were procured by the Cabinet Office to deliver the first cross-Civil Service People Survey. The People Survey replaced all existing staff surveys in the civil service with a single questionnaire.

The cost of the 2009-10 People Survey for BIS was £37,000 excluding VAT. By procuring a single supplier for staff surveys in 2009-10 the civil service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008-09.

Departmental Taxis

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on taxi fares in each of the last five years. [310211]

Mr. McFadden: Following a machinery of Government change the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was formed in June 2009. The following figures relate to the Departments before the merger, including the former Department of Trade and Industry.

	£
2004-05	342,928
2005-06	386,443
2006-07	349,075
2007-08	329,842
2008-09	411,471

Figures include spend for both UK and Overseas taxi fares.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Civil Service Management Code. All staff must ensure they use the most efficient and economic means of travel.

Electric Cables

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals for regulations with the aim of protecting the public from risks associated with the installation of *(a)* dangerous and *(b)* sub-standard electrical cables. [304594]

Ian Lucas: Electrical cables are currently regulated for the purposes of safety by European legislation. The Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations make it an offence to supply unsafe electrical equipment such as electrical cables. The Regulations are enforced by the Health and Safety Executive with regard to products supplied exclusively to business (e.g. for professional installation in business and domestic environments) and by Trading Standards for products where the supply is to consumers.

Installation is regulated for domestic situations by Communities and Local Government Building Regulations and for non-domestic situations by the HSE Electricity At Work Regulations.

Employment: Vetting

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the use of pre-employment health-related questions for job candidates which are not directly relevant to candidates' ability to do the job. [306922]

Mr. McFadden: I have had no such discussions with the Secretary of State for Health. The use of pre-employment inquiries about health or disability is a matter for the Office for Disability Issues. Provision has been made in the Equality Bill, currently before Parliament, to ensure that pre-employment inquiries about health or disability are used appropriately.

Financial Services: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his most recent assessment is of the effect on the financial services industry in Leeds of the recession; and if he will make a statement. [305995]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I am a member of the Financial Services Task Force set up by Yorkshire Forward in October 2008 to co-ordinate partners response to the recession. Its remit includes support for people facing redundancy to help them find new jobs quickly. The partners are also working on a longer term strategy to maintain Leeds and its wider city region as a UK centre of excellence for financial and professional services.

The Task Force published a report by Deloitte in March 2009 on the Future of the Financial Services Industry (FSI) in the Leeds City Region. This highlighted Leeds City Region as home to the largest FSI hub outside London, employing over 240,000 people.

The Deloitte report had a range of scenarios on the potential impact of the recession on FSI activity in Leeds and its wider City Region. Its "best case" scenario forecast up to 22,500 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs lost and a loss of annual output of £1.77 billion.

In December 2009 Yorkshire Forward completed a region wide assessment of the impact of recession. This suggests the loss of financial services output in the region could be around £820 million—less than half the best case scenario put forward in the Deloitte report. The potential jobs lost in financial services in Leeds is expected to be in the range between 12,000 and 14,000.

This recent assessment by Yorkshire Forward reinforces anecdotal views that the likely impact of the recession on financial services industry in Leeds will be less than had been expected. It is therefore clear that the financial services industry in the Leeds City Region has fared better than predicted at the start of the global recession. The sector has proved resilient through the downturn and over the longer term it is expected to continue to lead the growth of the regional economy.

I will continue to work closely with partners on the Financial Services Task Force on the longer term strategy to develop and maintain the Leeds City Region as a UK centre of excellence for financial and professional services.

Flexible Working

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many requests for flexible working from *(a)* mothers and *(b)* fathers were accepted by employers in each year since 2003; and how many such requests from carers have been accepted by employers in each year since 2007. [309446]

Mr. McFadden: The new employment rights introduced in April 2003 gave parents of children under six and disabled children under 18 the right to request flexible working, this was extended to carers in April 2007 and parents of children aged 16 and under in April 2009. There are no requirements for either employers or employees to notify the Department when requests are made to work flexibly. The Department does not have the requested information for each year since 2003 and does not have evidence on the number of requests accepted or rejected by carers since 2007.

However, the Department conducts periodic sample surveys to estimate the proportions of employees making requests to change their regular working hours and the proportion of such requests accepted or rejected. The most recent employee survey ('Third Work Life Balance Employees' Survey') was conducted in 2006, before the implementation of the extension of the right to request to carers. The following table presents the findings from the 2006 survey.

Request made to employer to change how they work at some point over previous two years, employees: Outcome of request by gender, parental status and adult caring responsibilities

Percentage

	Request made to change how regularly worked during the previous two years[1]	*Requests accepted by employer*[2] *(fully and partially)*	*Request declined by employer*[3]
All employees	17	78	17
Male	14	71	23
Female	22	83	13
Parental status[4] *(employees)*			
Dependent children	20	80	17
Males with dependent children	12	70	30
Females with dependent children	27	84	12
No dependent children	17	77	17
Adult carers[5] *(employees)*			
Yes	26	79	11
No	17	78	18

[1] 'Q (Over the last two years), have you approached your current employer to make a request to change how you regularly work for a sustained period of time?'

[2] 'Q. Was your request to change the way you regularly work agreed to?'

[3] Not all requests had an outcome by the time of the survey.

[4] Parental status is defined in the survey as having dependent children aged 18 or less.

[5] Adult carers are defined as people who look after adults who are sick, disabled or elderly, whether they live with the carer or not.

Notes:

1. Employees with parental responsibilities (defined as having dependent children aged under 19). In 2006, 22 per cent. of working parents had made a request to change their regular working pattern during the previous two years, and 80 per cent. of requests had been accepted. 27 per cent. of 'working mothers' had made requests, with 84 per cent. of requests being accepted, compared with 12 per cent. and 70 per cent. respectively for 'working fathers'.
2. Employees with adult caring responsibilities (defined as looking after sick, disabled or elderly adults). In 2006, 26 per cent. of employees with adult caring responsibilities had made a request to change their working pattern, with 79 per cent. of requests accepted (11 per cent. rejected).

Source:

Third Work-Life Balance Survey 2006. (2,081 employees across Great Britain

Furniture: Foam

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what his Department's policy is on the pricing of foam for use in home furnishings. [308839]

Ian Lucas: The pricing of foam is a matter for the market.

KBR

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has entered into any contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009. [303332]

Mr. McFadden: Central records indicate that the former-BERR element of the Department has entered into no contracts with Kellogg, Brown and Root or its subsidiaries since January 2009.

Procurement services to the former-DIUS element of the Department are provided by DCSF who advise that the information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Lord Sugar

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 513W, on Lord Sugar, on what dates Lord Sugar visited his Department; and what small business representatives he has met since his appointment. [307652]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 15 December 2009]:* Lord Sugar is an advisor to Government and small business and does not have a Department. Between the dates previously indicated he visited the Department for

Business, Innovation and Skills on 11 June, 8, 13 and 20 July, 6 August, 1, 17, 24 and 29 September, 1, 12, 13 and 22 October and 4, 17, 18, 23 and 30 November.

He has talked to almost 2,000 businesses at various question and answer sessions around the country. He has also had one-to-one meetings with over 20 businesses, most of whom were participating in a Business Link "Health Check". The practice of Business Link is not to disclose details of those using its services, without client permission, in order to protect the commercial interests of the businesses concerned.

Middlesex University: Per Capita Costs

Joan Ryan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what average per-student teaching grant was received by Middlesex University in each year since 1997. [308722]

Mr. Lammy: The following table shows the average amount of teaching grant per student that the Higher Education Funding Council for England has provided to Middlesex from 1996/97 to 2009/10. These annual figures cannot be directly compared, as a result of various changes to the funding method over this period.

Average teaching grant rates of funding per FTE for Middlesex University

	Rate (£)
1996-97	1,923
1997-98	2,048
1998-99	2,501
1999-2000	2,580
2000-01	2,610
2001-02	2,729
2002-03	2,978
2003-04	3,419
2004-05	3,842
2005-06	3,977
2006-07	4,167
2007-08	4,192
2008-09	4,473
2009-10	4,502

Source:
Total recurrent teaching grants from the following HEFCE publications:
Recurrent Grants for the Academic Year 1996-97: Final Allocations
Recurrent Grants for the Academic Year 1997-98: Final Allocations
Recurrent Grants for 1998-99: Final Allocations
Recurrent Grants for 1999-2000: Final Allocations
Recurrent Grants for 2000-01: Final Allocations
Recurrent Grants for 2001-02: Final Allocations
Recurrent Grants for 2002-03: Final Allocations
Recurrent Grants for 2003-04: Final Allocations
Recurrent Grants for 2004-05: Final Allocations
Recurrent Grants for 2005-06: Final Allocations
Recurrent Grants for 2006-07: Final Allocations
Recurrent Grants for 2007-08: Final Allocations
Recurrent Grants for 2008-09: Final Allocations

Partnerships: Company accounts

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department plans to amend the provisions of the Partnerships (Accounts) Regulations 2008 to require partnerships with a limited liability partnership as a notional partner to publish their accounts. [310070]

Ian Lucas: UK law does not recognise the concept of a "notional" partner. It does however recognise the concept of a "general" partner, under the Limited Partnerships Act 1907.

The purpose of the Partnerships (Accounts) Regulations 2008—like their predecessor regulations the Partnerships and Unlimited Companies (Accounts) Regulations 1993—is to implement European company law Directive 90/605/EEC. The directive amended the Fourth EU company law directive, which requires limited companies to draw up and publish accounts. The 1990 directive does not extend to limited partnerships whose general partners are Limited Liability Partnerships and the Department has no plans to amend the law to do so and thereby increase the burdens on business. Anyone wishing to do business with a limited partnership structured in this way can of course ask for copies of its financial statements as a precondition.

Work Experience: Young People

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of young people who have started *(a)* a paid and *(b)* an unpaid internship in each of the last 12 months. [307779]

Mr. Lammy: There is a huge range of internships available to young people, only some of which are stimulated by Government. We hold some information about vacancies filled through the Graduate Talent Pool. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column reference 807W for this information.

TREASURY

Debts: Developing Countries

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department plans to announce the conclusions of its July 2009 consultation on Ensuring effective debt relief for poor countries; what plans he has to introduce legislative proposals to tackle vulture funds; and if he will make a statement. [309807]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury intends to publish the results of its consultation "Ensuring Effective Debt Relief for Poor Countries" in February. The Government do not consider it acceptable that a minority of creditors continue to pursue full repayment for debts that the international community has worked so hard to reduce. It calls on all creditors to provide their share of debt relief to Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs). In that regard, I fully support the decision by the hon. Member for Denton and Reddish (Andrew Gwynne) to use a Private Member's Bill to tackle so-called vulture funds, helping to ensure that the world's poor see the full benefits of debt relief.

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what advertising campaigns his Department has been responsible in each of the last three years; which such campaigns have *(a)* commenced and *(b)* continued in 2009-10 to date; and what the total cost of each such campaign has been. [309920]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: For details of spending on advertising I refer the hon. Member to the following previous answers:

The answer I gave on 5 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 1093W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

The answer given by the former Exchequer Secretary (Angela Eagle) on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1891W, to the hon. Member for Taunton (Mr. Browne).

The answer given by the then Financial Secretary (John Healey) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 376W.

The majority of the Department's advertising is usually on staff recruitment except where indicated in the previous answers referred to above. Advertising spending on staff recruitment and the Money Guidance pathfinder advertising will continue in 2009-10. Details of any other campaigns launched in 2009-10 and total spending on advertising in that year will be available when the Department's Resource Account is published.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309872]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Waste

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what volume of waste his Department generated in each of the last three years; what percentage of this was *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic, *(c)* glass, *(d)* metal, *(e)* electrical goods and batteries and *(f)* food waste; and what percentage of his Department's waste was (i) disposed of securely, (ii) disposed of in landfill and (iii) recycled. [310381]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: HM Treasury is committed to making operations as sustainable as possible. Detailed information on waste and recycling in Treasury buildings is published in HM Treasury's Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 (HC 641).

The recycled paper waste in that report includes all of the Department's documents that are disposed of securely. The following table gives the proportions, where available, of the total waste by weight report which relate to batteries, all of which are recycled.

HM Treasury battery disposals, 2006-07 to 2008-09

Tonnes

	1 Horse Guards Road	*Rosebery Court*
2006-07	0.1580	—
2007-08	0	—
2008-09	0.3295	0.006

In the years reported, all disposals of HM Treasury's IT equipment were recycled under a service contract with an external organisation.

The remaining information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Public Sector: Procurement

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department provides to *(a)* other Government departments and *(b)* non-governmental organisations on the implementation of Article 45 of the 2004/EC/18 European Directive on Public Procurement. [310008]

Ian Pearson: The Office of Government Commerce has issued a guidance note on the implementation of Article 45. It can be accessed on their website at:

www.ogc.gov.uk

Taxation: Business

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will exempt businesses with a turnover of less than £100,000 per annum that do not have access to the internet from the requirement from April 2010 to submit value-added tax returns online. [310294]

Mr. Timms: Businesses already registered for VAT as at 1 April 2010 with a turnover of less than £100,000 (excluding VAT) may still file their VAT return on paper.

All businesses registering for VAT after 1 April 2010 will be required to file their VAT returns online.

HM Revenue and Customs have in place a full range of options for those businesses needing support through this change, including the very small minority with no direct internet access.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis is for the statement in his Department's document, "Impact Assessment of Withdrawing the Furnished Holiday Letting Rules", that it is likely that an indefinite extension of the FHL rules to EEA properties would also negatively impact upon UK tourism; and if he will make a statement. [309685]

Mr. Timms: Extending the furnished holiday letting rules to properties in the European economic area indefinitely would eliminate the UK tax advantage for UK properties relative to other European properties. It would encourage investment abroad and channel UK resources to businesses that promote tourism elsewhere in Europe, seeking to attract tourists away from the UK.

The Government support the objective of a thriving UK tourism industry, and are providing £130 million between 2008 and 2012 for marketing Britain overseas and England to the British. In addition, between £3.3 and £3.5 million is provided annually to the regional development agencies for tourism support.

Welfare Tax Credits

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* telephone calls were made and *(b)* letters were sent by the Tax Credit Office to (i) Jobcentre Plus, (ii) the Home Office, (iii) the Child Benefit Office and (iv) local authorities in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09; [309790]

(2) how many *(a)* telephone calls were made and *(b)* letters were sent by the Child Benefit Office to (i) Jobcentre Plus, (ii) the Home Office, (iii) the Tax Credit Office and (iv) local authorities in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09. [309791]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) telephony systems do not collate the number of outgoing calls made.

For information about the overall number of items of correspondence issued by the then tax credit and child benefit offices in 2006-07; 2007-08 and 2008-09, is provided in the following table. Information is not available for 2005-06. HMRC does not keep an itemised log of the number of items of correspondence addressed to other local and national Government departments or agencies.

million

	Correspondence sent by:	
	Tax Credit Office	*Child Benefit Office*
2006-07	1.35	3.37
2007-08	1.31	3.51
2008-09	2.16	3.46

Note:

Figures do not include items of post generated automatically by the tax credits and child benefit computer systems.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Embassies

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the annual entertainment budget is of the British Embassy in Kabul in 2009-10. [307739]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our embassy in Kabul has budgeted £58,493 (representing 0.3 per cent. of its budget) for the current financial year for hosting official contacts. These include working meetings with Senior North Atlantic Treaty Organisation/International Security Assistance Force personnel, with Kabul-based ambassadors, with senior Afghan political leaders, as well as hosting visiting hon. Members. These events are about supporting and furthering the UK's objectives in Afghanistan. Expenditure is monitored by budget holders, subject to audit and incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Flags

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* Union flags, *(b)* other national flags and *(c)* EU flags have been purchased by his Department in each of the last five years. [309840]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* This information is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* Union flags, *(b)* other national flags and *(c)* EU flags his Department has. [309930]

Chris Bryant: This information is not held centrally and is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for his Department's website in each of the last three years; and what budget has been allocated for each such activity in 2009-10. [310215]

Chris Bryant: The scope of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) web presence has evolved significantly over the last three years. We have moved from a web platform hosting a number of embassy websites (2003-08) to a completely new web platform hosting all of the FCO's websites plus FCO blogs and campaign sites like:

www.londonsummit.gov.uk

www.actoncopenhagen.gov.uk

and

www.hmg.gov.uk/afghanistan

(2008 onwards).

Because of the significant changes in our web presence we do not have full and comparable data for the last three years.

The data we provide relates to the entire FCO web platform, not just to our main UK site:

www.fco.gov.uk

The FCO web platform hosts over 250 websites in 40 languages. These websites include the main FCO website, Arabic and Urdu versions of the FCO website, the UKvisas website, the FCO Freedom of Information website, and over 230 embassy, high commission and special mission sites.

These sites are viewed by 35 million visitors a year (2008-09 statistics).

(a) strategy and planning and (b) design and build:

The FCO Web project (2006-08) was about planning, designing, building, hosting and servicing a single technical platform for all the FCO websites. The project also delivered new designs, content, functionality and a new hub and spoke model for delivering business support.

The initial cost of £9.7 million for the FCO web platform was set out in the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, on 30 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 398W.

The project followed the Office of Government Commerce Gateway Review process and delivered on time and under budget. The total cost of the project (from 2006 to 2008) was £9.3 million, £400,000 under budget. This included, for these years, procurement costs, client side advice, all design and development for the 250 websites, a new content management system implementation, hosting and licensing costs. In addition, it covered a number of additional costs, including costs for training of over 300 delegates worldwide, project management, strategy consultation, user testing, accessibility testing, and establishment of regional hubs (London, New Delhi, Singapore and Washington DC) to provide business support and training.

Logica sub-contracted elements of the project out (e.g. to XM for design, to Alterian for the CMS, to Verizon for hosting). The amount Logica paid XM for the design work is commercially protected and not known to the FCO.

(c) hosting and infrastructure:

The following figures include support costs, as well as hosting and infrastructure costs. The most recent figures also include development costs. Because of the single contract with Logica to provide all these services, it is not possible to separate out the different cost elements. These costs are in addition to the one-off project cost set out above.

2006-07 support and hosting costs: c.£500,000 (development costs unknown)

2007-08 support and hosting costs: c.£515,000 (development costs unknown)

2008-09 support, hosting and development costs: £1.45 million

2009-10 projected support, hosting and development costs: £1.45 million

(d) content provision and (e) testing and evaluation:

We provide all content, and undertake all testing and evaluation in-house. Work that we do in-house (including testing, and content updates and changes, for example) is carried out on a daily basis by hundreds of staff across the organisation. It is not feasible for us to be able to calculate the total time spent on this work.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in each year since 2006. [306428]

Chris Bryant: Payment of non-consolidated, variable pay linked to performance was introduced in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2002. We reward staff who are performing most effectively, frequently in dangerous and difficult posts.

For the total sums paid as non-consolidated, variable pay linked to performance in 2006-07, I refer the hon. Member to the reply by my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastwood (Mr. Murphy) to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1142W

For 2007-08 the total paid was £6,748,152 and for 2008-09 the total paid was £7,571,836.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses were paid to officials in his Department in each of the last three years; and how much was paid in such bonuses in each such year. [307095]

Chris Bryant: For the number of year-end and in-year non-consolidated, variable payments linked to performance for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 I refer the hon. Member to PQ 303951.

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last met trade union officials to discuss employment issues affecting his Department's staff. [308363]

Chris Bryant: Ministers meet many individuals during the course of their duties. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many consular staff his Department employees in each of its missions in Australasia. [310513]

Chris Bryant: The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff carrying out consular activities in Australasia (defined in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) as Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea) is 66.86.

The following table provides the details by post within Australasia.

Post name	*Consular FTE*
Australia	
Brisbane	2.43
Canberra	19.63
Melbourne	2.27
Perth	2.91
Sydney	3.17
New Zealand	
Auckland	0.33
Wellington	35.46
Papua New Guinea	
Port Moresby	0.67

Some definitions of Australasia include the neighbouring Pacific Islands. Within this area the FCO has the following staff conducting consular work in Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

	Consular FTE
Fiji	
Suva	0.99
Solomon Islands	
Honiara	0.55

Government Hospitality: Wines

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 197W, on Government hospitality: wines, how many bottles of wine were *(a)* newly purchased for and *(b)* used from the Government wine cellar in the last 12 months. [310198]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* In the financial year 2008-09 (latest available figures) Government hospitality used 5,632 bottles of wine from its cellar stock and purchased 4,596 bottles of wine.

Kashmir

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support a bilateral resolution between India and Pakistan on the situation in Kashmir. [310501]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is not for the UK to prescribe a solution on Kashmir; that is for those parties directly involved to determine through dialogue. However, we continue to encourage both India and Pakistan to seek a lasting resolution to the issue of Kashmir, which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

More generally, we recognise that the normalisation of relations between India and Pakistan will be vital for improving regional security and resolving conflict. Through our engagement we continue to encourage both India and Pakistan to establish and maintain dialogue.

Morocco

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the compliance with international law of UK companies which buy goods from Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara. [309544]

Chris Bryant: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not received any representations on the compliance with international law of UK companies which buy goods from the disputed territory of Western Sahara.

Nigeria: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives he has set for UK foreign policy in respect of Nigeria. [309145]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Nigeria is an important partner for the UK, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) engages with the country across all of our Departmental Strategic Objectives. I was able to discuss our objectives with a broad range of senior Nigerians, including President Yar'Adua, during my visit to Nigeria in November last year.

Conflict in the Niger Delta and inter-religious conflict in the North continue to be a priority, and the FCO works together with the Department for International Development and other Partners Across Government to address the underlying causes, including by reducing poverty and improving security. Deepening democracy and achieving electoral reform are an important part of this, particularly as Nigeria looks towards presidential elections in 2011. Nigeria's economic growth and prosperity are also key, and FCO priorities include improving governance and fighting corruption, as well as supporting economic reform and investment from British businesses. We also continue to engage on counter terrorism issues, increasing Nigeria's understanding of UK foreign policy aims and objectives. As Nigeria is a major oil exporter and growing gas supplier, we continue to engage heavily on energy security issues. On migration, we enjoy a constructive relationship with Nigeria, working towards maximising the return of immigration offenders, foreign national prisoners and failed asylum seekers. We are also working on a without-consent prisoner transfer agreement.

Regionally and internationally, Nigeria is of strategic importance, and is likely to become even more influential. Nigeria's position within the Economic Community of West African States has proved critical in recent events across the region, and we will continue to engage intensively with the Federal Government of Nigeria on regional issues. Nigeria has a key role to play in the African Union; and as of January 2010, will also be taking up a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. We are particularly supportive of Nigeria's contribution on peacekeeping across the region, including on Darfur and Liberia.

Nigeria: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Nigeria on the contribution of its reform programme to the stability of that country. [310417]

Chris Bryant: The UK regularly discusses the reform programme with the Government of Nigeria, including at ministerial level. We will continue to work with the Government of Nigeria on issues such as conflict in the Niger Delta, on ethnic tensions in northern Nigeria, on electoral, economic and development issues, all of which are key factors affecting the stability of the country.

North Korea: Political Prisoners

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of political prisoners in North Korea used for forced labour; and if he will make a statement. [310427]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: While there is no doubt that North Korea imprisons large numbers of people for their political and religious beliefs, there are no reliable figures available for the number of political prisoners in North Korea.

Different non-governmental organisations (NGOs) produce various figures based on the observations of defectors, but these are difficult to verify, and often out of date. That is why we have consistently pressed North Korea to allow the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea access to their country. We called for this most recently at the UN Universal Periodic Review of the human rights situation in North Korea in Geneva in December 2009. At the Universal Periodic Review we also raised concerns of NGOs on the existence of political prison camps. North Korea responded by stating that no political prison camps exist.

Overseas Territories Consultative Council

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 206W, on the Overseas Territories Consultative Council, when he expects to publish the final costs of the meeting held on 8 and 9 December 2009. [310279]

Chris Bryant: The final cost of the Overseas Territories Consultative Council and Forum in December 2009 was £36,460.

Russia

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next plans to visit the Russian Federation with his German counterpart. [310195]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State currently has no plans to visit the Russian Federation, but I am currently considering the possibility of joint meetings with the Foreign Secretary's German counterpart during a visit in February.

Uganda: Human Rights

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the government of Uganda on the Anti-Homosexuality Bill before the Ugandan Parliament; and what steps his Department plans to take to help improve human rights in Uganda. [309682]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The legislation is a private Member's Bill, which was introduced on 14 October 2009 and is currently at committee stage in Uganda's Parliament. It has not so far been adopted formally by the Ugandan government.

We have grave concerns about the Bill, which we have made clear in representations to Ugandan Ministers including by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to President Museveni and my noble Friend Baroness Kinnock to Foreign Minister Kutesa at the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. Our high commissioner in Kampala takes every appropriate opportunity to engage Ugandan Ministers on this issue. Sweden, which has the local EU presidency in Uganda, has led a demarche of EU member states to the Ugandan Foreign Ministry.

Our concerns include the negative impact the Bill would have on the rights of homosexual and heterosexual Ugandans through the criminalisation of any action that could be construed as support for homosexuality, the introduction of the death penalty for some acts criminalised by the Bill, and the potential impact of the Bill on the fight against HIV/AIDS in Uganda.

The UK is also in close touch with and is supporting Ugandan civil society organisations campaigning against the Bill.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Ugandan Government on its proposals for legislation discriminating against gays. [308143]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The legislation is a private Member's Bill, which was introduced on 14 October 2009 and is currently at committee stage in Uganda's Parliament. It has not so far been adopted formally by the Ugandan government.

We have grave concerns about the Bill, which we have made clear in representations to Ugandan Ministers including by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to President Museveni and my noble Friend Baroness Kinnock to Foreign Minister Kutesa at the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. Our high commissioner in Kampala takes every appropriate opportunity to engage Ugandan Ministers on this issue. Sweden, which has the local EU presidency in Uganda, has led a demarche of EU member states to the Ugandan Foreign Ministry.

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The UK is also in close touch with and is supporting Ugandan civil society organisations campaigning against the Bill.

Visits Abroad

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many overseas embassies he has visited in the last 12 months. [310512]

Chris Bryant: The Cabinet Office publishes an annual list of overseas travel by Ministers costing in excess of £500. The list provides details of the date, destination and purpose of all such visits and the cost of Ministers' travel and accommodation where appropriate. Copies of the most recent list were placed in the Libraries of both Houses in July 2009. A list of overseas visits undertaken by Ministers in the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 will be published in due course. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 13 January 2010

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Bars

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the *(a)* gross profit and *(b)* net trading surplus was of (i) Bellamy's bar and (ii) each other bar on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate in each of the last five years. [309749]

Nick Harvey: The gross profit (taking no account of staff and overhead costs) for Bellamy's Bar and each other bar (taken to mean venues which are primarily bars) on the Commons part of the parliamentary estate in each of the last five years was:

£

Bar	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009*[1]
Bellamy's	51,654	47,857	37,993	32,480	20,759
Strangers/ Terrace Pavilion Bar	64,375	68,349	68,931	74,760	65,832
Members Smoking Room	9,757	8,891	8,865	7,779	6,105
Pugin Room	23,818	23,163	29,475	30,993	21,374
Total	149,604	148,260	145,264	146,012	114,070

[1] April to December

The House does not record the net trading surplus or loss in each individual outlet but in 2008-09 the overall net cost incurred by the Catering and Retail Directorate in the Department of Facilities was some £6.1 million, in accordance with the budget approved by the Finance and Services Committee. This represents the difference between income and the cost of the services provided.

Members: Allowances

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much Sir Thomas Legg's analysis of hon. Members' expenses claims has cost to date; and how much of that cost was for remuneration to Sir Thomas. [310452]

Nick Harvey: Sir Thomas Legg completed his review and submitted his report on 16 December. The review has cost approximately £1.1 million to date, of which Sir Thomas's fees were £142,000. This does not include the cost of the appeal process now being conducted by the right hon. Sir Paul Kennedy, or of the work which Sir Thomas has been asked to do to update parts of his report in the light of further mortgage and rent information received from a number of Members.

Members: Computer Software

Mr. Drew: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the timetable is for migrating computer users in the House to Vista; and how many hon. Members have had their user accounts migrated to Vista. [310347]

Nick Harvey: PICT is ready to migrate Members from the Windows XP operating system to an upgraded system from the time of the next general election. A VISTA build has been successfully tested and PICT are now working with Microsoft to evaluate Windows 7 as a potential alternative option. PICT does not currently supply VISTA for any hon. Members parliamentary desktop.

Members: Electronic Equipment

Mr. Drew: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many types of personal digital assistants (PDAs) PICT supports; and what procedures hon. Members must follow to receive *(a)* PDAs and *(b)* upgrades to PDAs. [310348]

Nick Harvey: PICT currently has a range of five windows mobile devices in its PDA catalogue. Since the service was launched approximately three years ago the range of devices has changed and all those issued in the past are also supported by PICT. The full range of PDAs currently available from PICT can be viewed and ordered in the Commons Members Centre in Portcullis House. Device details and order forms can also be found on the intranet. During 2009 PICT upgraded the Parliamentary infrastructure and as a result will shortly be extending the mobile service further to allow Members to connect their own active synch compatible devices (windows mobile, symbian and iphone) and Blackberry devices securely to Parliamentary Outlook accounts.

Parliamentary Information and Communications Technology Service

Mr. Drew: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many *(a)* inquiries and *(b)* complaints PICT has received in each year since it was established. [310349]

Nick Harvey: Since it was established, the PICT Service Desk has received 345,404 calls and recorded 239 complaints.

	Number of inquiries	*Number of complaints*
2006	84753	[1]
2007	87414	117
2008	83373	79
2009	89864	43
Total	345,404	239

[1] During 2006, when PICT was first established, complaints were not recorded separately.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many employees of his Department and its agencies have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308517]

Paul Goggins: While details of criminal convictions would be on the personnel files of employees they are not held centrally.

OLYMPICS

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many employees of the Government Olympics Executive have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308518]

Tessa Jowell: The Government Olympic Executive is part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The number of employees from DCMS convicted of a criminal offence since 1997 is zero.

SCOTLAND

Anti-Slavery Day Bill

11. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will ask the First Minister to introduce in the Scottish Parliament a legislative consent resolution in respect of the provisions of the Anti-Slavery Day Bill introducing a national day to raise awareness of the need to eradicate all forms of slavery. [309559]

Ann McKechin: The hon. Member for Totnes refers to his Anti-Slavery Day Bill which is due for second reading in this House on 5 February.

The Government are committed to the convention that we would not normally legislate with regard to devolved matters without seeking the consent of the Scottish Parliament, and this commitment extends to private Members' Bills that receive support from this House.

Regional News

12. **Miss Begg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last met broadcasters in Scotland to discuss the future of regional news in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [309560]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend regularly meets with broadcasters in Scotland to discuss a range of issues including regional news.

Freedom of Information Requests

13. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many freedom of information requests his Department has received in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [309561]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office received 180 freedom of information requests during 2009.

Globespan Airways Ltd.

14. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the entry into administration of Globespan Airways Ltd. in Scotland. [309562]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I speak to ministerial colleagues regularly on a range of issues including the Globespan problems. Along with these ministerial colleagues I am continuing to monitor the situation closely.

Banking Sector

15. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for the banking sector in Scotland. [309563]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Following the UK Government's support to Halifax Bank of Scotland and the Royal Bank of Scotland worth £358 billion, I am confident that the Scottish banking sector will return to profitability and again flourish as part of Scotland's strong and diverse financial services sector.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Sick Leave

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House how many working days were lost due to *(a)* illness and *(b)* stress of employees in her Office in each of the last three years. [309917]

Barbara Keeley: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons joined the Cabinet Office in 2007.

The Cabinet Office has published previous annual sickness absence reports for the civil service (2003-07) these can be viewed via sickness absence reports at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.Uk/about/resources/sickness/sickness.aspx

Since 2007, the Cabinet Office has continued to publish its own sick absence data on a quarterly basis. These can be viewed via absence data reports at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/absence.aspx

No staff have taken leave for stress over the last three years.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in her Department in each of the last three years. [310241]

Barbara Keeley: In the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons one Minister has attended a Media skills training course during the last three years. This was organised by Sara Jones Associates Ltd. at a cost of £2,937.50.

Training is also provided to Ministers on a range of issues including handling the media, as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their duties effectively under the 'Ministerial Code'.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Carbon Sequestration

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effects on climate change of the practice of mob-grazing of cattle to sequester carbon dioxide in soil. [310000]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DEFRA has not carried out any formal research on the potential for mob-grazing (an extra intensive version of rotational grazing) to permanently sequester carbon in soil. However, an initial assessment from a UK perspective suggests that mob-grazing has limited potential to increase soil carbon and may increase soil compaction and erosion, resulting in a subsequent loss of soil quality and soil carbon. As a result of the density of livestock, mob-grazing practices would also be likely to lead to nutrient 'hotspots' which could lead to increased nitrous oxide emissions (a more powerful greenhouse gas) or increased nitrate leaching into water courses.

Agriculture: Waste Disposal

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research into the *(a)* environmental and *(b)* economic merits of anaerobic digestion as a means of disposing of fallen stock; and if he will make a statement. [309994]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Disposal of fallen stock by means of anaerobic digestion is not permitted under the EU Animal By-products Regulation 1774/2002. This is because of the animal and public health risk associated with such disposal. There is therefore no point at this stage in carrying out such an environmental or economic assessment. However, we are aware that there is ongoing research into the possibility of using anaerobic digestions as a pre-treatment and method of temporary storage of fallen stock prior to disposal by rendering or incineration. The regulation has a provision to approve such new methods of disposal subject to evidence from research that it does not present a risk to animal and public health.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the relationship between badger populations and the incidence of tuberculosis in cattle, with particular reference to East Sussex. [310141]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* Since November 2008, DEFRA has worked alongside the farming industry and veterinary profession as part of the Bovine TB Eradication Group for England to tackle Bovine TB and move towards its eradication. On 8 October, the group published a progress report that covered a range of issues including bovine TB and badgers and included a number of recommendations which have now been implemented.

While we do not have any studies specifically relating current badger populations to cattle TB incidence, DEFRA is funding a number of research projects that further analyse the extensive dataset collected during the Randomised Badger Culling Trial carried out in the South West of England between 1998 and 2005. This trial looked at the impact of two badger culling methods on cattle herd TB incidence.

No trial areas were located in East Sussex because it is predominantly a relatively low TB incidence county with a well recognised small endemic area of infection on the coast between Brighton and Eastbourne. The latest figures show that of the 16,390 reactors slaughtered in 2009 up to 31 August in England, 18 were from herds located in East Sussex.

DEFRA is, however, funding work at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency as part of its TB surveillance contract, which looks at relationships between local badger and cattle strain types.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects a diagnostic test to differentiate between infected and vaccinated animals to become available for use in vaccinating cattle against tuberculosis. [310716]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The earliest projected date for the use of a BCG cattle vaccine with a DIVA test to Differentiate Infected from Vaccinated Animals is 2015.

It should be noted that in addition to the science, there are a number of key policy, legal, commercial, regulatory and manufacturing issues surrounding the implementation of a vaccine against bovine TB.

The possible future use of cattle vaccines has been discussed with the European Commission and the Commission has indicated that an accredited DIVA test will be critical for a cattle vaccination policy. DEFRA will continue to work closely with the Commission and other member states to minimise the time required to make the required legislative changes once the necessary scientific information is available.

Flood Control

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government is taking to improve the resilience to flooding of drainage and sewer systems in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* England. [309674]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In June 2009 the Government published their response to Sir Michael Pitt's independent review of the summer 2007 floods. The Government supported all of the 92 Pitt recommendations, including those that suggested better ways of managing surface water flooding caused by excessive rainfall.

The Flood and Water Management Bill was presented to Parliament on 19 November 2009. The Bill implements the Pitt recommendations that require urgent legislation, and strengthens the legislative framework to reduce impacts of future floods. It gives local authorities lead responsibility for managing local flood risk, with the support of the relevant organisations.

It also contains proposals on unitary and county local authorities being responsible for approving sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) for all new builds and redevelopments, and for adopting and maintaining SUDS serving more than one property. SUDS can significantly reduce localised flash-flooding, reduce flooding downstream and slow down the rate at which areas begin to flood. They can also improve water quality. The Bill proposes to amend the automatic right to connect the surface water drainage systems of any new developments to the sewerage system, making it conditional on SUDS National Standards having been applied. For back gardens, local authorities already have powers to prevent the laying of impermeable surfaces where it poses a local problem, via Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995.

On 15 December 2008, the Government announced that the transfer of all private sewers and lateral drains linked to the public sewerage system would take place from 2011. Around 180,000 km of private sewers and lateral drains connect into the public network, but benefit from no effective operational regime. This will remove the burden of maintenance and repair from householders and will ensure better planning and more integrated management of the wider sewerage network.

In the West Midlands, the Environment Agency has supplied its Medium Term Plan for flood risk management to Severn Trent Water. This will allow an early assessment of potential impacts on the sewerage system to be made. It will also create opportunities to identify potential sites for combined schemes, where both river and sewer flooding occur. The Environment Agency and Severn Trent are currently co-operating on planning schemes at Alcester, Broom and Pershore in the West Midlands. These are all locations which were affected by the 2007 summer floods. These schemes are planned to reduce flood risk to 193 properties (100 at Alcester, 61 at Pershore and 32 at Broom).

Water companies are investing considerable sums in capital works to minimise the risk of sewer flooding. For the Periodic Review 2009, the Environment Agency commented on and contributed to the funding bid by Severn Trent to improve the resilience of its assets. In both the East and West Midlands, Severn Trent has been working with the Environment Agency to assist lead local authorities in establishing successful partnerships to manage local flood risk.

Lake Windermere

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who has responsibility for managing the water level of Lake Windermere; and how this management is undertaken. [310365]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* The Environment Agency is responsible for the operation of the Newby Bridge Sluices situated on the River Leven, which flows out of Windermere. The sluices have a limited controlling effect, reducing the lake level when it is high.

United Utilities carries out abstraction for the public water supply and this controls the lake's water level when it is normal or low.

Water Charges

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to implement the recommendations of chapter 14 of the Independent Review of Charging for Household Water and Sewerage Services. [309692]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA will consider Anna Walker's final recommendations, including those dealing with the particular problem of the South West, very carefully and will consult on the way forward.

TRANSPORT

A338

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the reason is for the roadworks taking place on the A338; when they are expected to be concluded; and if he will make a statement. [310081]

Mr. Khan: Dorset county council, as highway authority, is currently clearing vegetation, removing tree, erection of reptile fencing and undertaking various surveys in preparation for proposed major reconstruction work to the A338 Spur Road from Ashley Heath interchange to Cooper Dean Interchange. It expects to complete this preparation work in early March 2010.

The Department for Transport is currently considering a major scheme business case for the reconstruction works and will announce a decision in due course.

Aviation: Security

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of the additional security arrangements introduced in December 2009 on queuing times and delays at UK airports. [309430]

Paul Clark: While the additional measures introduced for US bound flights are the responsibility of the US Government, the Department for Transport inspectors have been working with airports and airlines to assess the extent of delays. The Department for Transport and the US Government are in regular contact to discuss ways in which delays can be minimised while maintaining adequate levels of service.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the Government plan to introduce the additional security checks recently introduced for flights to the US to other flights departing the UK. [310284]

Paul Clark: These checks were introduced in response to US Government requirements. The UK Government will not be introducing such specific requirements for other flights, but will be improving security for all departing passengers in line with the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary to Parliament on 5 January.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the aviation industry of additional security checks on passengers transferring at UK airports to flights to other destinations; [310287]

(2) what additional security checks he plans to introduce for passengers transferring at UK airports to flights to other destinations; [310298]

(3) whether additional security checks on passengers transferring through UK airports will apply to passengers arriving from all countries or specified countries. [310301]

Paul Clark: The Government are not implementing additional security checks specifically on transfer passengers at UK airports, and so no additional costs are involved. International transfer passengers are already subject to the same screening regime as departing passengers, and will therefore be covered by the wider enhancements to airport security that are being introduced.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the average time required to carry out the new security checks on airline passengers and others. [310299]

Paul Clark: This is currently under discussion with airport operators. Our aim is to minimise disruption to passengers.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what proportion of airline passengers transferring at UK airports to other destinations will be subject to additional security screening. [310300]

Paul Clark: Transfer passengers are subject to the same security regime as departing passengers. The precise proportion of passengers selected for screening is not made public for security reasons.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimates have been made of the likely costs to *(a)* airports and *(b)* airline operators of training for staff on new security measures. [310302]

Paul Clark: I have made no estimate. Training costs are a matter for airport operators.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether behavioural profiling is used in security measures undertaken at UK airports. [310303]

Paul Clark: Security staff at certain airports are currently receiving training in behavioural analysis techniques.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many full body scanners he expects to be introduced into UK airports in the next *(a)* six months, *(b)* year, *(c)* two years and *(d)* five years. [310304]

Paul Clark: This is a detailed operational matter for each UK airport to decide.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of the introduction of full body scanners at airports on *(a)* the length of queues at security and *(b)* levels of passenger convenience. [310305]

Paul Clark: Urgent consultation with industry is under way particularly with those airports who have trialled such body scanners to ensure that such operational issues are taken into account.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what criteria will be used to decide which passengers are subject to full body scanning at airports. [310307]

Paul Clark: The code of practice is under urgent development and will be finalised as soon as possible.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects to publish the report of the Government's review of airport security measures. [310314]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made to the House by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 28-32.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of passive millimetre wave technology in the detection of powder and liquid explosives. [310316]

Paul Clark: None. We are not proposing the deployment of such technology at UK airports for the detection of powder and liquid explosives.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the cost *(a)* to the public purse and *(b)* to the aviation industry of introducing full body scanners to all UK airports. [310317]

Paul Clark: The costs of introducing body scanners will be met by airports, and not the public purse. It will be up to airport operators to determine how many machines are needed to process passengers without undue delay, and so an assessment of cost at this stage is not possible.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether the full body scanners he plans to introduce to airports will use passive millimetre wave technology or X-ray technology. [310318]

Paul Clark: We envisage that the body scanners to be introduced will use either active millimetre wave or backscatter X-ray technology.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of full body scanning security equipment for airports that does not use passive millimetre wave technology. [310319]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has assessed the effectiveness of active millimetre wave and backscatter X-ray technology. It is envisaged that the body scanners to be deployed at UK airports will use either of these methods.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether there will be a minimum age for people to be subject to full body scanning security at airports. [310320]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 11 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 660W.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the oral statement of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 28-32, on aviation and border security, whether funds from his Department's budget will be allocated to training for airport security staff on new security measures. [310339]

Paul Clark: The financing of training for airport security staff is a matter for airport operators.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the Oral Statement of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 28-32, on aviation and border security, whether his Department plans to contribute to the cost of introducing explosive trace detection equipment in all UK airports by the end of the year. [310340]

Paul Clark: The financing of this equipment will be a matter for airport operators.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the Oral Statement of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 28-32, on aviation and border security, whether he has made an estimate of the cost to the aviation industry of his Department's requirement that all UK airports introduce explosive trace detection equipment by the end of the year. [310341]

Paul Clark: I have not made any estimate. The financing of such equipment is a matter for airport operators.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport when he expects full body scanning equipment to be operational in all designated UK airports. [310350]

Paul Clark: The first scanner is expected to be operational at Heathrow airport within about three weeks. We are discussing urgently with the airport industry the widespread roll out of scanners at UK airports as soon as is practical.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport pursuant to the Oral Statement of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 28-32, on aviation and border security, whether he expects airline staff to receive training in behavioural analysis techniques. [310362]

Paul Clark: The current behavioural analysis training programme is focused on airport security staff.

Body Searches

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what his estimate is of the average time it takes to search an individual using a *(a)* body scanner and *(b)* pat down physical search. [309428]

Paul Clark: The average time taken for a search by body scanner is between 20 and 90 seconds, depending on the technology employed. A hand search takes around 45 seconds.

Buses: Concessions

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people in Halifax are estimated to be eligible for the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [310461]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Transport does not hold information about the number of people eligible for a bus pass, that is persons aged 60 or over and eligible disabled people, at the level requested. West Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (Metro) administers the concessionary travel scheme that includes Calderdale council and Halifax. Population estimates from the Office for National Statistics show that in mid 2008 there were 43,400 people resident in the Calderdale council area aged 60 or over. There is no information on the number of disabled people resident in the area.

Buses: Stafford

Mr. Cash: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will take steps to ensure the restoration of the X1 Baker Bus service to Stafford station. [309866]

Mr. Khan: The X1 bus service is a commercial service operated by Baker Bus Ltd. The X1 also provides a rail-replacement service between Wedgewood, Barlston and Stone stations.

Rail services between Stafford and Stone were restored in December 2008. However, London Midland Trains has made a commercial agreement with Arriva Buses that through rail tickets will be accepted providing through journey opportunities.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309873]

Chris Mole: This information is not held by the Department for Transport.

Departmental Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport (1) what recent guidance his Department has issued to regional transport committees on the criteria to be used in their allocation of central funding for transport programmes; [310429]

(2) which Minister in his Department is responsible for policy in relation to the allocation of central funding for regional transport programmes; [310430]

(3) what criteria his Department uses to determine its funding allocations in respect of regional transport programmes. [310431]

Mr. Khan: My responsibilities include decisions on transport funding for cities and regional networks. Most such funding outside London is distributed to local authorities on the basis of advice received from regions.

Guidance to regions on preparing regional funding advice was most recently issued in July 2008, and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/regional_funding_advice300708.pdf

This sets out both the general criteria for advice across all the functions covered and the specific transport considerations to be taken into account. The guidance also includes at Annex E the formulae which have been agreed to distribute available funding between regions.

Since submitting advice in spring 2009, regions have been invited to undertake a number of further transport studies to influence decisions on investment from 2014 onwards. Guidance on the study programme was issued in July 2009 and is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/strategy/dasts/guidance/

Departmental Pay

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by his Department in each of the last three years. [300629]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not record the details of bonus and incentive payments centrally and this could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

However the following bonus and incentive payments are known to have been paid:

The central department paid Operon gainshare and incentive payments of £340,654 in 2006-07, £394,905 in 2007-08 and £464,061 in 2008-09 for successfully meeting key performance indicators related to delivery of total facilities management services.

John Mason: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* bonuses and *(b)* incentives have been paid to (i) consultants and (ii) contractors engaged by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last three years. [300630]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport does not record the details of bonus and incentive payments centrally and this could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

However, following a search across the Departments Executive Agencies and non-departmental public bodies, the following bonus and incentive payments are known to have been paid.

Driving Standards Agency made incentive payments of £26,032 in July 2008 and £10,544 in July 2009 for the completion of multi purpose test centres being delivered to the agreed programme.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of his Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the cost of the survey was. [309836]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport will be publishing its October 2009 staff survey results for the Department and its agencies on the Department's website on 1 February 2010. Following publication we will place a copy of the results in the Library.

The supplier for the Department for Transport staff survey in October 2009 was ORC International who were procured by the Cabinet Office to deliver the first cross-civil service People Survey. The People Survey replaced all existing staff surveys in the civil service with a single questionnaire.

The cost of the 2009-10 People Survey for the Department for Transport and its agencies was £76,000. By procuring a single supplier for staff surveys in 2009-10 the civil service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008-09.

M6

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress has been made on the review of road safety between junctions 15 and 19 of the M6 motorway. [310065]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: The Highways Agency has reviewed road safety between Junctions 15 and 19 of the M6, and other adjacent sections of the motorway, as part of its overall Annual Safety Report. This report has recommended further investigations at various locations along the motorway. The Highways Agency has also launched a number of targeted educational campaigns and other initiatives aimed at improving road safety along this and other sections of the motorway.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of grit and salt to treat roads and pavements during very cold weather periods; and what the sources are of salt used for such road treatments. [309987]

Mr. Khan: The Government have convened a group called the 'Salt Cell', bringing together the Department for Transport, the devolved Administrations (Scotland and Wales), the Highways Agency, the Local Government Association (LGA), County Surveyors Society, Met Office, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Cabinet Office.

The aim of the Salt Cell is to provide advice to suppliers on the most effective distribution of available salt supplies in order to minimise the risk to public safety. The Salt Cell is continuously gathering and assessing salt stock and resilience levels and is working hard to ensure the delivery of salt goes to where it is needed most.

There are three significant salt mines within the UK. There are also three major salt merchants that import salt as well as supply UK produced salt. There are other salt merchants and businesses which supply relatively small quantities of salt.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport on what date the Salt Cell became operational. [310553]

Mr. Khan: The Salt Cell became operational on the 6 January 2010 in order to respond to the current severe weather conditions.

Rolling Stock

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much has been spent on additional rolling stock for the Calder Valley line between Halifax and Leeds since 2005. [310460]

Chris Mole: Generally, rolling stock is not procured for particular routes unless there are special reasons, usually technical or operational, for doing so, and therefore it is not possible to identify additional trains provided specifically for services between Halifax and Leeds. However in 2006 Yorkshire Forward part funded the additional cost of 12 diesel multiple unit vehicles for use on services on routes in West Yorkshire, including those between Leeds and Halifax.

Transport Police

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many people (1) were issued with a penalty notice for disorder under section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 by the British Transport Police in each of the last three years; [310548]

(2) have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* de-arrested by the British Transport Police in each of the last three years. [310549]

Chris Mole: This information is not held by the Department for Transport, but by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, e-mail:

parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Belarus: Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with his Belarus coun[illegible]part on the regulation of the internet in that country[illegible] and if he will make a statement. [310421]

Chris Bryant: Access to the internet in Belarus is controlled through the monopoly of the national company Beltelkom and strict rules are imposed on owners of internet cafes who are obliged to report when users visit banned websites. We are concerned by recent reports that a new presidential decree would increase control over the internet in advance of the local elections expected this spring and the presidential elections expected early next year. We, and EU colleagues, regularly raise freedom of expression with the Belarusian authorities. Progress in this area would improve the relationship between Belarus and international organisations like the EU, Council of Europe, and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. On 7 May 2009, Belarus signed the Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit which stipulates that the

> "Partnership will be based on fundamental values .... including democracy, the rule of law and the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."

This includes the right to a free media.

Colombia

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the number of internally displaced people in Colombia; and if he will make a statement. [310551]

Chris Bryant: There are varying figures on the total number of displaced people in Colombia, but the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) puts the figure at almost 3.3 million. Further details can be found on the UNHCR website at:

http://www.unhcr.org/4b02ca0e9.html

We continue to urge the Colombian Government to take all appropriate steps to help these people, addressing the most urgent issues they face, including extreme poverty and the loss of their land.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of UK projects to reduce impunity in Colombia. [310552]

Chris Bryant: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary announced a further £250,000 in UK project funds to help tackle impunity in Colombia in March 2009. These projects are ongoing in the current financial year, and it is too early to make an assessment of their effectiveness. The largest relevant project is being implemented with the assistance of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime and is being specifically tailored to meet needs identified by those involved in the Colombian judicial process, including investigators, lawyers and judges. Specialised training will commence in February 2010.

The other project funded with the additional money is a report reviewing the five years of operation of the Accusatorial Criminal Justice System. It will produce examples of best practice and draft proposals to present to Congress and the authorities aimed at improving the judicial process.

Colombia: Overseas Trade

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has held with his US counterpart on the negotiation of a free trade agreement between the US and Colombia; and if he will make a statement. [310444]

Chris Bryant: Neither my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary nor I have held recent discussions with our US counterparts on the negotiation of any free trade agreement between the United States and Colombia.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 410W, on Colombia: overseas trade, for what reasons he will not withdraw from the negotiation of a free trade agreement with Colombia. [310455]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the response made by my hon. Friend the Minister of State (Mr. Lewis) on 26 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 302W.

We believe that free trade agreements can help to create the right circumstances for improved stability, where human rights stand a better chance of flourishing. Denying Colombia access to the economic opportunities presented by the multi-party trade agreement would undermine this prospect.

However, we would not support an agreement that did not contain a robust and enforceable human rights clause, which would allow the EU to suspend the agreement if it is breached.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309877]

Chris Bryant: The information is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers make every effort to fulfil engagements, but occasionally it may be necessary for business reasons to make changes at shorter notice than we would prefer. In those situations we always seek to minimise the inconvenience caused.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials from each other Government department are serving at UK posts overseas. [307049]

David Miliband: The number of staff, broken down by Government body, are shown in the following table.

	Number of co-located staff		
Department name	*UK*	*LE*	*Total*
UK Border Agency—Visa staff	415	1,443	1,858
Ministry of Defence	358	154	512
Department for International Development	201	247	448
UK Border Agency—Airline Liaison Officers	47	39	86
British Council	9	48	57
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs	17	18	35
Department for Work and Pensions	2	12	14
Metropolitan Police	12	2	14
Department of Transport	5	5	10
Others	20	24	44
Totals	1,086	1,992	3,078

Departmental Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest non-consolidated performance related payment for senior civil servants in his Department was in cash terms in each of the last five years. [303014]

Chris Bryant *[holding answer 30 November 2009]:* For the years 2006-07 to 2008-09, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my noble Friend Lord Brett on 12 January 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA146.

For the highest amount paid out to an individual, in each case a senior civil servant, for the years 2004-05 to 2005-06, I refer the hon. Member to the reply by my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield Heeley (Meg Munn) to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1125W.

The average non-consolidated performance related payment for senior civil servants in 2004-05 was £2,128 in 2004-05 and £4,025 in 2005-06.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 161W, on departmental pay, how much was paid out in total under his Department's main bonus scheme in each year since 1997; how much was paid out on average under the main bonus scheme to each of those whose received money from it in each year since 1997; how much the highest amount paid out to an individual under the main bonus scheme was in each year since 1997; how many individuals received a payment under the main bonus scheme in each year since 1997; how much was paid out in total under the in-year bonus scheme in each year since 1997; how much was paid out on average under the in-year bonus scheme to each of those who received money from it in each year since 1997; what the highest amount paid out to an individual was under the in-year bonus scheme in each year since 1997; and how many individuals received a payment under the in-year bonus scheme in each year since 1997. [303591]

Chris Bryant: Payment of non-consolidated, variable pay linked to performance was introduced in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2002. We reward staff who are performing most effectively, frequently in dangerous and difficult posts. Bonuses represented 2.97 per cent. of our 2008-09 payroll costs. In 2004, we moved to in-house payroll provision. New data prior to 2004 can be extracted only at a disproportionate cost, but some information has previously been published in the *Official Report* as follows.

The total number of individuals receiving bonuses was:

	Main scheme	*In-year scheme*
2005-06	4,770	946
2006-07	4,838	748
2007-08	4,702	952
2008-09	4,478	1,190

For the total sums paid out under the main bonus scheme, and the in-year scheme, for 2006-07, I refer the hon. Member to the reply by my right hon. Friend the Member for Eastwood (Mr. Murphy) to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1142W; for 2002-06 in the reply by my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester East (Keith Vaz) on 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 462W.

The main scheme paid out £6,333,024 in 2007-08 and £7,054,036 in 2008-09. The in-year scheme paid out £415,128 and £517,800 in the same periods.

For the highest amount paid out to an individual, for the years 2004-05 to 2005-06, I refer the hon. Member to the reply by my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield Heeley (Meg Munn) to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1125W. For the years 2006-07 to 2008-09, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my noble Friend Lord Brett on 12 January 2010, *Official Report, House of Lords, column* WA146.

The highest amount paid under the in-year scheme has been £2,000 since 2005-06. The average amount paid in the in-year scheme in the period 2005-09 has been successively £946, £748, £952 and £1,190. The average amount paid in the main scheme has been successively £1,083; £1,217; £1,303; £1,553.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 161W, on departmental pay, how much his Department has paid out in bonuses to staff in each year since 1997. [303632]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave in PQ 303591.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [310753]

Chris Bryant: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 423W.

Equatorial Guinea: Human Rights

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Director-General of UNESCO on the naming of the UNESCO-Obiang Nguema Mbasogo International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences in light of the human rights record of the government of Equatorial Guinea. [309480]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are concerned about the human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea, and made this clear at the UN Human Rights Council on 9 December 2009, when Equatorial Guinea underwent its Universal Periodic Review. Our ambassador to Equatorial Guinea will continue to raise our concerns with the Equato-Guinean authorities during his visits to the country. However, we have no plans to make representations to the Director General of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) about the creation of the new UNESCO-Obiang prize, which was a matter for the UNESCO Executive Board.

Morocco

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what definition of the border of Morocco is used for the purposes of the EU-Morocco Association Agreement. [309545]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is no definition of the borders of Morocco within the text of the EU-Morocco Association Agreement of 1996, which entered into force on 1 March 2000.

In practice, for the purposes of application of the tariff preference provisions of the Agreement, the European Commission provides each member state with details of the relevant issuing offices in Morocco which are approved to authenticate tariff preference documents. If in doubt HM Revenue and Customs would refer any queries to the European Commission.

North Korea: Human Rights

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in North Korea; and if he will make a statement. [310428]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: North Korea has one of the worst human rights records in the world. Although North Korea denies access to human rights organisations, including the UN, information from a variety of sources, much of it from North Korean defectors, paints a picture of serious and widespread abuse, namely:

political prison camps and labour rehabilitation camps;

regular use of the death penalty (including extra-judicial and public executions);

routine use of torture and inhumane treatment;

severe restrictions of freedom of speech, movement, assembly, and information.

We raised these issues most recently in December 2009 at the UN Universal Periodic Review of the human rights situation in North Korea (in Geneva). We pressed North Korea to allow the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea access to their country to make a full assessment of the human rights situation. The EU has also offered to restart a bilateral dialogue on human rights but North Korea refuses to do so until the EU stops proposing resolutions against North Korea.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much funding his Department has made available to tackle antisocial behaviour in Coventry in each year since 1997; [309607]

(2) what recent discussions his Department has had with the Coventry Community Safety Partnership on the effectiveness of measures to reduce the incidence of antisocial behaviour in Coventry. [309608]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As with all other crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs), Coventry was allocated £25,000 a year from 2003-04 as a contribution towards funding an ASB co-ordinator post. In 2005-06, in England the antisocial co-ordinators grant was pooled within the safer and stronger communities fund. This pooled budget supports the delivery of outcomes and indicators relating to antisocial behaviour in local area agreements (LAAs).

Other budgets also contribute towards the wider cross-Government strategy to tackle antisocial behaviour. The Government are committed to diverting young people from crime and antisocial behaviour as demonstrated by our investment of around £2 billion on prevention, including activity such as sure start children's centres, parenting support and positive activities. Last year we launched the Youth Crime Action Plan, a cross-government programme of action to tackle youth crime and antisocial behaviour and reduce re-offending. It set out a triple track approach of enforcement where behaviour is unacceptable, non-negotiable support and challenge to children and families where it is needed and better and earlier prevention. This builds on major progress we have made in the last decade in tackling youth offending. Backed by £100 million of new investment it has led to significant action over the past year and a half, which has made a real difference to young people, families and communities. The number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time is falling. The number in England fell from 94,481 in 2007-08 to 74,033 in 2008-09—a 21.6 per cent. decrease.

Home Office led activities also act to tackle antisocial behaviour, for example the introduction of community support officers, but a monetary value cannot be assigned to that contribution.

While I have not had discussions with the community safety team in Coventry I am pleased to hear that Coventry community safety partnership has an overarching strategy and action plan to tackle and reduce antisocial behaviour (ASB) in the city, which has been developed and is delivered through a range of agencies who are members of a Coventry ASB strategic group. On 13 October 2009 I wrote out to all CDRPs challenging them to develop and publicise a set of minimum standards for ASB and communicate that effectively to the public, including:

reducing perceptions of ASB year on year;

regular updates for every community on what is being done to tackle antisocial behaviour—including an expectation to publicise ASBOs to the local community;

offer support and practical help to victims of ASB;

provide residents with a right of complaint when effective action is not taken by local agencies through existing channels; and

taking reports of ASB seriously by recording and investigating all cases and committing to keeping victims informed of action taken.

I am particularly pleased that Coventry community safety partnership has already been proactive in devising the minimum standards and that in September 2009 produced a synopsis for the Home Office, which showed how they already deal with and publicise many, varied aspects of ASB and related crime in terms of response times, reporting outcomes to callers, use of enforcement activity and use of council weblinks by which to report and get feedback on information.

Association of Chief Police Officers

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what work is undertaken by the Association of Chief Police Officers' regional intelligence units. [308550]

Mr. Hanson: The 10 ACPO Regional Intelligence Units share intelligence and information in order to build a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the threat and risk from serious organised crime. They also provide intelligence support to coordinate activity against those individuals or groups posing the greatest threat thereby maximising available resource capabilities and the reduction of harm. The RIUs are currently in the process of expanding to accommodate in each unit personnel from the Serious Organised Crime Agency, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the UK Borders Agency that will support the development of a more integrated intelligence landscape across all the law enforcement agencies for serious organised crime.

Asylum

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of refused asylum seekers remaining *(a)* illegally and *(b)* pending appeal in (i) the UK, (ii) England and (iii) each region in each of the last five years. [308751]

Mr. Woolas: The number of individuals who receive a decision to refuse them asylum and the number who are removed from the UK or depart voluntarily are published quarterly and can be found on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The following table shows the number of outstanding asylum appeals before the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) in each region of the UK and in England only in December 2006, December 2007, December 2008 and November 2009.

Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, outstanding asylum appeals

	December 2006	December 2007	December 2008	November 2009
Midlands	507	376	321	495
Northeast and Northwest	940	635	556	898

Asylum and Immigration Tribunal, outstanding asylum appeals

	December 2006	December 2007	December 2008	November 2009
Scotland	182	241	167	172
Birmingham ASC[1]	—	—	106	118
Northern Region	1,629	1,252	1,150	1,683
Central London	3,632	2,111	1,344	2,042
Greater London and the Southeast	596	418	366	983
Wales and Southwest	172	126	102	205
Loughborough/ Leicester[1]	413	105	30	19
Southern Region	4,813	2,760	1,842	3,249
AIT total	6,442	4,012	2,992	4,932

[1] Birmingham, Loughborough and Leicester are Administrative Support Centres and not AIT hearing centres.

Prior to 2006 figures showing the number of outstanding appeals were based on a manual file reconciliation and subsequent appeal receipt and disposal figures. It is therefore not possible to break down those figures on either a regional basis or to reflect England only.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* financial, *(b)* legal and *(c)* housing support his Department provides to refused asylum seekers allowed to remain in the UK temporarily for humanitarian reasons. [308752]

Mr. Woolas: Provision for the temporary support of failed asylum seekers, in the form of subsistence and accommodation required to prevent destitution is only available in certain circumstances, primarily under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. Details of the availability of support are set out on the UK Border Agency website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/asylum/support/apply/section4/

The Government have introduced proposals for reform of asylum support under the draft Immigration Bill which was published on 12 November. The objectives in reform are to ensure those seeking asylum are effectively supported during the determination of their claim; that the system for achieving this is as simple and efficient as possible; and that it works towards the return of those who have no protection needs and who have no right to be in the United Kingdom.

Funding for civil legal aid is available to anyone who qualifies, provided that the case is within the scope of the legal aid scheme. Each application is considered on an individual basis and is subject to the statutory test of the applicant's means.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of asylum seekers were *(a)* granted asylum and *(b)* allowed to remain temporarily in the UK for humanitarian reasons in each of the last five years. [308753]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the number and proportion of persons granted asylum at initial decision stage of their application in the UK. It also includes the number and proportion of persons granted humanitarian protection and discretionary leave in each of the last five years.

Information on immigration and asylum are published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics and the latest statistics for Q3 2009 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Applications received for asylum in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants and initial decisions[1, 2], 2004-08

Number of principal applicants

	Total applications	Total initial decisions	Recognised as a refugee and granted asylum	As percentage of initial decision	Not recognised as a refugee but granted humanitarian protection	As percentage of initial decision	Not recognised as a refugee but granted discretionary leave	As percentage of initial decision	Total
2004	33,960	46,020	1,565	3	160	0	3,835	8	40,465
2005	25,710	27,395	1,940	7	120	0	2,675	10	22,655
2006	23,610	20,930	2,170	10	55	0	2,245	11	16,460
2007	23,430	21,775	3,545	16	125	1	2,075	10	16,030
2008[3]	25,930	19,400	3,725	19	95	0	2,075	11	13,505

[1] Figures (other than percentages) rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period and exclude the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

[3] Provisional figures.

Burglary

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* burglaries and *(b)* robberies in respect of (i) businesses and (ii) individuals were reported in each year since 1997; and what the detection rate was for each type of offence in each such year. [307631]

Alan Johnson: Figures based on the number of recorded offences in England and Wales of (1) total burglary in a dwelling, (2) total burglary in a building other than a dwelling, (3) robbery of business property and (4) robbery of personal property are given in the following tables.

The number of burglaries related to business properties cannot be separately identified from the recorded 'burglary in a building other than a dwelling' offences.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, 1997

	1997	
Offence	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*
Robbery	63,072	27
Total burglary in a dwelling	519,265	26
Total burglary in a building other than a dwelling	495,810	20

Note:
Up until 1997, robbery of (i) business property and (ii) personal property offences were recorded together under the classification of 'robbery' and were not separately identifiable.

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, 1998-99 to 2001-02

	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
Offence	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*
Robbery of business property	10,481	35	12,148	25	12,394	25	13,186	27
Robbery of personal property	56,354	20	72,129	17	82,760	17	108,173	15
Total burglary in a dwelling	473,349	22	442,602	15	402,984	14	430,347	14
Total burglary in a building other than a dwelling	479,835	17	463,866	10	433,043	10	448,162	10

Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2008-09

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
Offence	*Number of Offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of Offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of Offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of Offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*
Robbery of business property	11,066	29	10,110	28	7,934	29	8,760	26
Robbery of personal property	99,205	17	93,626	18	83,076	19	89,438	18
Total burglary in a dwelling	437,583	15	402,345	15	321,507	16	300,517	17
Total burglary in a building other than a dwelling	452,516	10	417,668	10	358,851	11	344,551	11

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
Offence	*Number of Offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of Offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*	*Number of Offences*	*Detection rate (percentage)*
Robbery of business property	9,454	23	9,174	26	9,344	27
Robbery of personal property	91,922	18	75,574	19	70,772	20
Total burglary in a dwelling	292,260	17	280,694	16	284,427	16
Total burglary in a building other than a dwelling	329,752	11	302,989	11	297,119	11

Note:
The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Children: Police Custody

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been held in a police cell in each police force area in each of the last five years. [309885]

Mr. Hanson: The Home Office does not collect these figures.

Crime: Convictions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of incidents of recorded crime resulted in a conviction in each of the last 10 years. [306361]

Alan Johnson: Information is not available in the form requested.

It is not possible to track individual offences through to their conclusion at court. The police recorded crime data are principally victim-based and are the number of offences recorded in each financial year. Court proceedings data for convictions are collected by the Ministry of Justice and are offender based. These data are published on a calendar year basis and are counts of persons classified by their principal offence. For these reasons the two datasets are not directly comparable.

Crime: Lancashire

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the level of recorded crime was in Lancashire Constabulary area in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest period for which figures are available. [308582]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There were 119,755 offences recorded in Lancashire in 1997. There were 117,575 offences recorded in 2008-09. However, it is important to note that these two figures are not directly comparable.

Since 1997, there have been two major changes to the way crime is recorded. The coverage was extended and the counting rules revised in 1998-99 and the National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. For these reasons it is not possible to directly compare data for 1997 with that for 2008-09.

Criminal Proceedings: Autism

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which Minister in his Department is responsible for policy to implement proposals in the autism strategy on improving the accessibility of the criminal justice system; and if he will make a statement. [308723]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The matters raised in this question are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice

Departmental Air Travel

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's policy is on the accumulation and use of air miles by his Department's personnel flying at public expense. [308485]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office policy on acceptance of gifts, hospitality and rewards states: Members of staff travelling by air on Government business, paid for from public funds, must not use any frequent flyer rewards such as air miles, 'two for one' or equivalent schemes. However members of staff are entitled to associated benefits, such as priority booking and special lounges, when undertaking official travel. The receipt of any benefits accruing from official travel must be recorded in the hospitality book. In the case of gifts or benefits given for using a particular mode of transport it is important that the mode of transport chosen is in accordance with departmental guidelines. This guidance is widely available to all Home Office staff.

DNA and Fingerprint Database

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Newark of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 476W, on the DNA and fingerprint database, what foreign intelligence agencies have received DNA and fingerprint information from the UK *(a)* by making a request for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and *(b)* through intelligence channels via Interpol, Europol or similar organisations in the last five years. [305478]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Mutual legal assistance is provided for the purpose of criminal proceedings or criminal investigations not for intelligence purposes. Home Office policy is neither to confirm nor deny whether a request for mutual legal assistance has been made or received.

The information on the amount of DNA or fingerprint material that has been shared with Interpol and Europol over the last five years is not currently available and could not be recovered without disproportionate cost. The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), which processes requests, is able however to confirm that since 1 January 2008, the DNA profiles of 150 EU nationals who have been convicted of serious offences in the UK have been shared with Interpol for comparison purposes, but not for sharing with member states.

DNA: Databases

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many profiles were removed from the National DNA Database in each month of 2009. [310112]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 12 January 2010]*: The following table shows the number of subject profiles removed from the National DNA Database (NDNAD) under the exceptional case procedure, i.e. following a request to the chief officer of the responsible police force, in each month of 2009. The table covers subject profiles submitted to the NDNAD by English and Welsh police forces and the British Transport police.

Number of subject profiles removed from the National DNA Database (NDNAD) under the Exceptional Case Procedure in each month of 2009

	Number
January	17
February	20
March	15
April	19
May	36
June	47
July	50
August	35
September	43
October	37
November	22
December	36
Total	377

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many safe accommodation beds his Department funds for trafficked persons who were not trafficked for sexual exploitation. [309601]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Accommodation and support for victims of trafficking for forced labour is provided on a case by case basis. This is funded by a grant agreement with Migrant Helpline.

Since 1 April 2009 accommodation and support has been provided for a total of 68 people identified as victims of trafficking for forced labour.

Human Trafficking: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of potential child victims of trafficking referred to the national referral mechanism have been age-disputed. [309622]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* Information on the number of age disputed potential child trafficking cases is not held centrally. Competent authorities within the NRM make decisions on a case by case basis on the information provided by front line staff or other NRM partners. While assessing each case competent authority staff will consider all aspects including the age of the child but they do not contribute to any age assessment process.

Humberside Police

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers there were in the Humberside police force in each relevant year since 1996. [309765]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for each year (as at 31 March) from 1996 to 2009 appear in the table.

The first police community support officers started work in September 2002, following legislation which was introduced as part of the Police Reform Act 2002. Therefore, data on police community support officers are not available prior to 31 March 2003.

Police officer strength (FTE)[1] for Humberside as at 31 March 1996 to 31 March 2009

	Number
1996	2,041
1997	2,045
1998	2,021
1999	1,974
2000	1,932
2001	1,917
2002	2,058
2003[3]	2,105
2004[3]	2,213
2005[3]	2,230
2006[3]	2,224
2007[3]	2,227
2008[3]	2,216
2009[3]	2,078

[1] Full-time equivalent. All officers less staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures).

[2] This table contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[3] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

Police community support officer strength[1] (FTE)[2] for Humberside as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2009[3]

	Number
2003	0
2004	0
2005	20
2006	20
2007	194
2008	318
2009	321

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

[2] Full-time equivalent include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

[3] Police community support officers were introduced in statute in 2002, therefore data is not available prior to 2002-03.

Illegal Immigrants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants the UK Border Agency (UKBA) has discovered to be working for contractors supplying UKBA uniforms. [309437]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 7 January 2010]:* There is no record of any illegal migrant workers being encountered by the UK Border Agency on the premises of the firm contracted to supply UK Border Agency uniforms.

Independent Safeguarding Authority: Manpower

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many caseworkers the Independent Safeguarding Authority employs at each grade to make barring decisions under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006; what the job specification is of such posts at each such grade; and what requirements there are in respect of *(a)* competencies and *(b)* professional training in relation to such posts at each such grade. [307863]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* The numbers of employees at each grade who are responsible for making barring decisions is as follows: Operational unit head four casework team manager 17 caseworker decision maker 125 several competency areas are identified for casework staff including analysis and use of evidence, people management, communication, resilience, project and programme management. Each casework employee undergoes a Caseworker Development programme (CWDP) upon joining the ISA, which consists of six weeks of intensive training made up of classroom and practical experience. Following this, casework officers, decision makers, team managers and unit heads undertake the

> "University Certificate of Advanced Professional Development (UCAPD)—Professional Decision Making in Independent Safeguarding Authority Casework",

which is an Accredited Caseworker programme. The UCAPD is accredited by Teesside university and awards individuals 60 credits/units of an academic qualification. Copies of the job specifications are available in the House Library.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each security classification have been submitted to the Iraq Inquiry by his Department; and if he will make a statement; [309365]

(2) whether any *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format sought from his Department by the Iraq Inquiry have not been disclosed owing to the Government's obligations to foreign governments or international bodies; and if he will make a statement; [310180]

(3) how many and what proportion of the *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification requested by the Iraq Inquiry have been provided to it by his Department; and if he will make a statement; [310181]

(4) how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification the Iraq Inquiry has requested from his Department; and if he will make a statement. [310182]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith), on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 840-41W.

Licensing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for offences under the Licensing Act 2003 there have been in each police force area in each year since the implementation of that Act; and if he will make a statement. [309962]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information showing the number of defendants found guilty at all courts in England and Wales from 2005 (when most sections of the Act came into force) to 2007 (latest available) for offences under the Licensing Act 2003 can be viewed in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under the Licensing Act 2003 by police force area, 2005-07[1, 2]

Police force area	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	—	4	9
Bedfordshire	—	1	1
Cambridgeshire	—	2	10
Cheshire	2	4	5
City of London	—	2	1
Cleveland	—	7	18
Cumbria	—	3	2
Derbyshire	1	3	8
Devon and Cornwall	1	4	1
Dorset	—	—	2
Durham	—	2	6
Essex	—	7	19
Gloucestershire	—	5	4
Greater Manchester	7	48	37
Hampshire	—	3	9
Hertfordshire	1	33	27
Humberside	1	2	3
Kent	—	—	1
Lancashire	—	21	41
Leicestershire	—	27	65
Lincolnshire	—	1	10
Merseyside	—	7	37
Metropolitan Police	—	87	223
Norfolk	—	5	2
North Yorkshire	—	22	17
Northamptonshire	3	6	7
Northumbria	—	1	9
Nottinghamshire	—	11	8
South Yorkshire	—	10	4
Staffordshire	—	25	31
Suffolk	—	3	11
Surrey	—	10	3
Sussex	—	21	23
Thames Valley	—	4	26
Warwickshire	—	1	1
West Mercia	—	5	8
West Midlands	—	36	54
West Yorkshire	—	—	4
Wiltshire	1	4	8
Dyfed-Powys	—	9	7
Gwent	—	8	11
North Wales	8	10	13
South Wales	—	10	3
Total England and Wales	25	474	789

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Most sections within the 2003 Licensing Act came into force on 24 November 2005.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice [Ref: IOS 013-10].

Olympic Games 2012: Security

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the security costs in respect of the London 2012 Olympic Games. [310726]

Mr. Hanson: The Government remain committed to delivering the safety and security programme for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games within the £600 million additional funding envelope for additional spending which was announced by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Olympics in March 2007, together with the budgets for security set for the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG), and the existing substantial investment in security.

Police: Training

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training is given to police officers on the assessment of the physical and mental condition of individuals subject to a control order. [309969]

Mr. Hanson: All police officers receive training in making initial assessments of the physical and mental health of members of the public that they interact with during their basic training.

Police officers involved in the management and enforcement of control orders are made aware of any known physical or mental conditions to help inform the police's management of the controlled individual. In the event that physical or mental health issues are identified by police officers in the course of their interaction with the controlled person, it is standard practice that the police provide advice, where appropriate, to the controlled individual on seeking medical support or advice. The police will also inform the Home Office to inform the management of the control order and the obligations it imposes.

Police: Weapons

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what less lethal weapons are permitted to be used by police. [310080]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As well as personal protective equipment like batons and CS spray, police forces in England and Wales are permitted to use taser and the attenuating energy projectile (AEP) round in accordance with Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guidance. All less lethal weapons are subject to full and rigorous testing and independent assessment of their medical implications prior to introduction.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will issue guidance to police forces on handling complaints relating to alleged infringements of the provisions of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 in respect of *(a)* internet and *(b)* other interceptions; and if he will make a statement. [310544]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* I have no plans to issue guidance to police forces in respect of the offence of unlawful interception set out in Section 1 (1) of Part 1, Chapter one of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000.

UK Border Agency

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the delay by the UK Border Agency in determining the case of a constituent of the hon. Member for Thurrock, reference N11 0518-CRTL5 included in the Agency's backlog of older cases; and how many other cases are to be determined by the Agency prior to this case. [305800]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 December 2009]:* The UK Border Agency wrote to my hon. Friend in relation to his constituent's case on 6 January 2010. With regards to case conclusion timeframes, the Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) will give priority to cases that may pose a risk to the public, those that can be easily removed or given status and those receiving support at the taxpayer's expense. I can also confirm that the CRD is fully committed to considering all unresolved cases by summer 2011 and is on track to do so.

United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre: Publications

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will request the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre to publish a report on its activities as part of the national referral mechanism framework; and if he will make a statement. [309599]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The activities of the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) are already reported through the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking, which is published annually. This includes its activities as part of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

In addition, the UKHTC's website publishes information regarding its work, and provides data from the NRM. After the transfer of the UKHTC's legal entity to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), which will take effect from the start of the next financial year, SOCA's annual report will include the UKHTC's work—including activities undertaken as part of the NRM.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will request the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre to publish a report on its activities to date. [309600]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The activities of the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) are reported through the UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking, which is published annually.

In addition, the UKHTC's website publishes information regarding its work, and provides data from the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). After the transfer of the UKHTC's legal entity to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), which will take effect from the start of the next financial year, SOCA's annual report will include the UKHTC's work.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Hearing Impairment

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what progress has been made in the provision of hearing protection for service personnel since 2001; [309691]

(2) how many service personnel are recorded as having experienced hearing loss as a consequence of their duty in each year since 1990. [309693]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence is continually looking at ways of monitoring and mitigating the risk in operational areas, including the development of improved hearing protection which does not hamper the operational effectiveness of combat personnel.

The Surgeon General (SG) has set up a multi-disciplinary Defence Hearing Working Group (DHWG) to address the impact of current operations on the incidence of noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) in serving personnel, set in the wider context of the Health and Safety-led MOD Hearing Conservation Programme, changing legislation and emerging technology. Compared with civilians who may suffer hearing loss due to industrial noise exposure, the relationship between troops' exposure to noise on military operations and hearing impairment is a complex one. Since January 2009, MOD has been working with the charity Deafness Research UK to develop a number of lines of research that will not only provide a more robust means of diagnosis but will also ensure that personnel have the most effective possible protection from hearing loss. Deafness Research UK hosted a highly successful symposium in December 2009, bringing together experts from the field of hearing impairment with members of the Defence Hearing Working Group.

Regarding protective systems, on the present deployment in Afghanistan, some 3,000 sets of an improved hearing protection system known as personalised interfaced hearing protection (PIHP) are in use by front-line troops. This innovative system has been designed to protect against impulse and continuous noise, to be comfortable to wear for prolonged periods, to be compatible with personal radios, not to interfere with equipment designed to counter improvised explosive devices, and to allow the user to keep situational awareness.

Data held centrally does not allow a comprehensive summary of how many Service personnel are recorded as having experienced hearing loss as a consequence of their duty in each year since 1990. The DHWG work now in progress includes improved data capture to allow the effects of current operations on the hearing of personnel to be assessed on a proper basis. However, patients who have attended or been admitted to our field hospitals in Iraq and Afghanistan within the 'ear/nose/throat' (ENT) medical classification can be identified. These data are shown in Table 1 and include UK Service personnel, other NATO forces, civilians (both UK and nationals) and detainees. Note that this information is not limited to those with complaints related to hearing damage, but includes all ENT patients.

Table 1: Initial ear/nose/throat attendances at UK field hospitals by year and operational area

Number

	All	*Iraq*	*Afghanistan*
All	[1]846	[1]682	[1]164
2003	[1]290	[1]290	—
2004	102	102	—
2005	74	74	—
2006	[1]101	76	[1]25
2007	120	64	56
2008	126	62	64
2009	[1]33	[1]14	[1]19

[1] Figures cover from March 2003 to April 2009 for Iraq and April 2006 to May 2009 for Afghanistan

The numbers of UK personnel in the last 10 years who have left the Services with a medical discharge with a principal cause given as hearing loss are shown in Table 2. Note that such discharges cannot be specifically linked to operational exposure.

Table 2: Medical Discharges with a principal cause of hearing loss, 1 January 1999 to 31 December 2008

Number

ICD 10 Cause Group	*[1]Naval Service*	*Army*	*RAF*
All	51	155	45
Diseases of the ear (H60-H62), H65-H75 and H80-H83)	26	65	17
of which:			
Noise-induced hearing loss (H833)	8	39	5
Other disorders of ear (H-90-H95)	25	90	28

[1] Includes Royal Marines and Royal Navy

This table is not subdivided by year as, in accordance with Office of National Statistics guidelines, numbers less than five would be suppressed by reason of patient confidentiality, which would effectively obscure all information provided.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent estimate he has made of the cost to Modern Housing Solutions of upgrading all properties it manages under contract to his Department to energy efficiency Standard Assessment Procedure 81; [[illegible]9646]

(2) how many of his Department's properties managed under contract to Modern Housing Solutions have an energy efficiency Standard Assessment Procedure 81; [309647]

(3) how many of his Department's properties managed by Modern Housing Solutions have an energy efficiency rating of *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C, *(d)* D, *(e)* E, *(f)* F and *(g)* G. [309648]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* The Department does not use standard assessment procedure (SAP) ratings to assess the energy efficiency of service family accommodation homes. Defence Estates uses the EcoHomes06 sustainability assessment model for all major improvement works and new build projects. This is an industry recognised environmental performance assessment model and covers a wider range of environmental impacts than the SAP.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average period of time taken was to make repairs to forces accommodation after a call out in the last period for which figures are available. [310247]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 6 July 2009, *Official Report*, column 552W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Additional information is currently being collated and verified. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether families are allowed to view armed services' accommodation before occupying it. [310248]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* While this Department will do all it can to facilitate families who wish to view service family accommodation (SFA) prior to occupation, for practical reasons this is not always possible to guarantee. However, we are currently introducing "estate agent" style information packs for all UK SFA properties in order to provide occupants with key information relating to their future home.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many calls have been made to his Department's special forces housing helpline in the last 12 months. [310249]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* There are several dedicated housing helplines and the information will take a little time to collect. I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Defence Storage and Distribution Agency

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to sell in whole or in part the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency; and if he will make a statement. [309770]

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency at Ashchurch, Gloucestershire; and if he will make a statement. [310010]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* The Operational Efficiency Programme review of the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) has recently concluded, and we are currently considering its recommendations. No decisions to sell the DSDA in whole or in part have been taken, and all options currently remain open.

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on *(a)* print, *(b)* online, *(c)* television and *(d)* radio advertising in each of the last five years; how much has been spent on advertising in 2009-10 to date; and what percentage of advertising expenditure in each year was managed by the Central Office of Information. [309901][1]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The majority of advertising conducted by the Ministry of Defence is part of the drive to recruit the best personnel to the armed forces. The recruitment advertising for the armed forces is conducted through the Central Office of Information, and those costs are shown in the following table.

Armed forces recruitment media spend

£ million

	Print (press and poster)	*Online and interactive TV*	*TV and cinema*	*Radio*
2004-05	2.0	0.8	26.3	2.3
2005-06	2.5	1.6	15.2	2.2
2006-07	1.8	2.3	10.1	1.3
2007-08	5.2	2.8	18.7	1.6
2008-09	3.6	4.3	17.4	1.5

The Department may promote other initiatives such as armed forces day. Spend relating to these activities, where it is available centrally, is shown in the following table. The figures given include creative and production costs, as well as media spend. Figures are not available centrally for all advertising spend and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Spend (£ million)
2004-05	23.8
2005-06	23.5
2006-07	21.0
2007-08	33.6
2008-09	37.4

Figures are not available prior to financial year 2004-05 and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Figures for 2009-10 are not yet available.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308824]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will commission research into possible links between the use of memory sticks on the information technology platforms used by his Department and cyber-attacks on the computer systems its operates. [302670]

Bill Rammell: The MOD takes any attacks on its information networks and associated media storage devices very seriously and has robust procedures in place to mitigate against and investigate such occurrences. Furthermore new processes, instructions and technological aids are continually being implemented to mitigate human errors and raise the awareness of every individual in the Department with regards to cyber security.

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[1] *[Official Report, 27 January 2010, Vol. 504, c. 5MC.]*

If malicious software is detected on either a network or a memory stick its origin is researched to gain insight for its subsequent containment, and mitigation practices are introduced. However no specific instances of deliberate attack, successful or otherwise, would ever be publicly divulged so as to protect the integrity of the networks from widespread scrutiny and invoke further malicious attempts. All related security issues are investigated thoroughly by a number of related MOD cyber organisations and the MOD has established significant relationships with other agencies to assist in security issues, mitigation and risk management. These include working with Centre for the Protection of the National Infrastructure (CPNI), the CESG (as the National Technical Authority), Other Government Departments and foreign allies. The MOD has also established ongoing strong relationships with the Office of Cyber Security (OCS) and Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC) to help maintain awareness of threats and vulnerabilities. These engagements together ensure our cyber defences are as robust as possible.

On the technical front there are ongoing developments across Government on cyber to increase the protection of the infrastructure from attack. These include revised policies on the use of portable media and enhancements to the MOD's Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) Computer Network Defence (CND) architecture and also the introduction of measures that ensure only MOD-procured memory sticks can link with the DII network.

Every MOD employee now has to undergo mandatory annual Protecting Information training which aims to increase awareness and understanding of information security issues.

Future Large Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what technical problems were encountered *(a)* in preparation for and *(b)* during the recent maiden test flight of the Airbus 400M in Spain. [308621]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The first flight of A400M took place on 11 December 2009, less than four weeks after the aircraft was handed over to the flight test team. During early testing, a number of minor issues were identified and resolved prior to first flight, as is normal for these events. During the first flight itself, a number of minor anomalies were found which were successfully managed by the flight test crew. The relevant details have been made available to Partner Nations in confidence. As is demonstrated by the three and three quarter hour flight, which is at the upper end of the planned maximum duration, none of these anomalies were considered significant or in any way compromised aircraft safety. A successful second flight was undertaken on 23 December 2009 with a third flight undertaken on 7 January 2010.

It is considered that publication of details of the actual issues could lead to misinterpretation and may inadvertently release company sensitive information.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many F35 Joint Strike Fighters he plans to purchase; and what his most recent estimate is of the cost of each such fighter. [302459]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The procurement process for Joint Combat Aircraft remains at a very early stage. We have not taken the final investment decision and at this stage cannot confirm overall numbers or the in-service date. On 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 54WS the then Secretary of State for Defence announced the purchase of the first three Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) aircraft. This will enable the UK to conduct, along side the US, a joint Initial Operational Test and Evaluation programme, the results of which will inform our decision of the required size of the overall fleet. The cost of an individual JSF aircraft will depend upon how many we, and other nations, buy and when we place the order.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to the email from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire dated 1 December 2009 on the Taliban. [310014]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* The hon. Member's email was not sent to the correct address. It has now been resent and a response will be provided shortly.

Military Aircraft: Accidents

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take in response to evidence on software problems linked to the 1994 Chinook crash. [310082]

Bill Rammell: The issues raised about the FADEC software were known at the time and had been factored into the operating instructions for the Chinook Mk 2.

Military Aircraft: Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his latest estimate is of the average operating cost per flight hour of a Sea King helicopter. [309664]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The average operating cost per flying hour of a Sea King helicopter in FY 2009-10 is approximately £14,000. This includes forward and depth servicing, fuel costs, crew costs, training costs and the cost of capital charge and depreciation.

Military Aircraft: Training

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the circumstances surrounding the Chinook accident in Scotland on 2 June 1994 have been the subject of a completed simulation using test pilots; and if he will make a statement. [309995]

Bill Rammell: The flight was subject to modelling by Boeing, the aircraft's manufacturer, as part of the original investigation, and again following the report of the House of Lords Committee. There has been no attempt to conduct a complete "live" simulation, and the facts of the case do not warrant one.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether further attempts will be made to simulate possible full authority digital engine-related causes of the 1994 Chinook accident; and if he will make a statement. [309996]

Bill Rammell: The 1994 Chinook accident was thoroughly investigated at the time, by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Branch, and with the assistance of Boeing, the aircraft's manufacturer, who conducted simulations of the final flight, specifically including consideration of FADEC as a factor. There are no plans to conduct any further simulation.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to assist UK-registered vessels following the most recent hijacking in waters around the coast of Somalia. [310416]

Bill Rammell: The MOD has been working comprehensively with Government Departments and international coalitions to find ways to support shipping transiting through the Gulf of Aden, focusing in particular on minimising the risk of pirate attack on merchant shipping. This includes the offer of group transits to vulnerable vessels using the internationally recognised transit corridor, protected by international forces, and the provision of planning advice and support to mariners by the Royal Navy manned UK Maritime Trade Operations office.

The UK Government endorse the advice prepared by the contact group on piracy off the coast of Somalia, and endorsed by the International Maritime Organisation, which provides specific advice to global shipping on how to prevent, deter and delay acts of piracy off the Horn of Africa, notably through inexpensive and simple self-protection measures, as well as through advice on course and speed.

The Shipping Defence Advisory Committee, jointly chaired by industry and the MOD and supported by other Government Departments is proving to be a good forum for liaison and a two-way mechanism for providing advice. The shipping industry is also providing liaison officers to the EU counter-piracy operation Atalanta headquarters at Northwood.

The Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa website (www.mschoa.org), created and maintained by the EU operation, contains general advice to shipping companies. We encourage all UK shipping to register with this website and transit through the internationally recognised transit corridor in addition to adhering to the latest maritime advisories in force throughout the piracy threat region.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Energy Performance Certificates

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate his Department has made of the effect on the level of energy efficiency of *(a)* owner-occupied dwellings, *(b)* private rented dwellings and *(c)* the commercial property sector of the introduction of energy performance certificates. [309402]

John Healey: No estimate has been made, as yet, of the effect on the level of energy efficiency of buildings following the introduction of energy performance certificates.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's most recent estimate is of the rate of non-compliance with the requirement to produce an energy performance certificate in respect of *(a)* domestic properties marketed for (i) sale and (ii) rent in the private sector, *(b)* domestic properties marketed for rent in the social sector and *(c)* commercial properties offered for sale or rent. [309403]

John Healey: The Department does not hold the information in the format required to answer this question. However, information about the number of energy performance certificates (EPCs) that have been produced is available from the EPC Register. Information about the number of EPCs produced in relation to domestic properties is available on the Domestic EPC Register and the same information for non-domestic properties is available on the Non-Domestic EPC Register. Both the Domestic and the Non-Domestic EPC Register can be accessed from the following website address:

http://www.epcregister.com/

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of public buildings required to have a display energy certificate which do not have such a certificate. [309404]

John Healey: Compliance with the directive is a matter for local weights and measures. There are approximately 42,000 public buildings that require a display energy certificate (DEC). The current number of lodgements can be found on the following website:

https://www.ndepcregister.com/lodgementStats.html

Home Information Packs

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of people who have paid fees to train as home inspectors; how many people are undertaking such training; and if he will make a statement; [309405]

(2) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 875W, on home inspectors, what assessment his Department has made of the effects on the job opportunities of people who have trained to become home inspectors of the decision to implement home condition reports on a voluntary basis; [309406]

(3) how many *(a)* people have trained to become home inspectors and *(b)* home condition reports have been commissioned on a voluntary basis since the implementation of home information pack regulations; [309407]

(4) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 875W, on home inspectors, what recent assessment he has made of the extent of voluntary roll-out of home condition reports; and if he will make a statement. [309408]

John Healey: The home condition report (HCR) remains authorised for inclusion in the home information pack (HIP) on a voluntary basis and certificated home inspectors are accredited to produce domestic energy performance certificates (EPCs) which are a required component of the home information pack. No such assessment of the job opportunities of home inspectors has been made.

Communities and Local Government does not hold information on the number of people who have paid fees to train as home inspectors, or the number of people who have undertaken or are undertaking such training. The most recent figure supplied to us by the national EPC and HCR register operator, shows that there are 971 certificated home inspectors as of 4 January 2010. This figure may include duplicate numbers of those home inspectors who have registered with more than one certification scheme.

Although since the decision in July 2006 to make the HCR an authorised rather than required document, we continued to promote the benefits of including an HCR within a HIP. However, take-up has been disappointing with only 327 reports lodged on the central register since 1 August 2007 and it is clear that the product as it stands is not seen as the right one either by consumers or industry.

We still believe that consumers should be better informed about any property they are looking to buy before making what is undoubtedly one of the biggest purchases of their lives and that they want information about the condition of homes before they commit to buying them. As a result Margaret Beckett established the Working Group on condition information in the home buying and selling process to explore options for ensuring consumers receive appropriate information about a property's condition before they commit to buy, by building on existing products such as the HCR, and creating opportunities for all practitioners including home inspectors.

Housing: Owner Occupation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average length of tenure was in *(a)* an owner-occupied dwelling, *(b)* a private rented dwelling and *(c)* a social rented dwelling in each year since 1997. [308265]

Mr. Ian Austin: Estimates of the average (median) length of residence at the current address for owner occupiers, social renters and private renters are provided in the following table for each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08 inclusive. These estimates are based on data from the Survey of English Housing. The survey is only able to estimate the average length of time that residents have been in their accommodation at the time of interview, this will not be the overall length of time that they will eventually spend in that accommodation.

Average (median) length of residence (so far) at current address by tenure, England: All households

Years

	Owner occupiers	*Social renters*	*Private renters*
1997-98	10.8	7.1	1.5
1998-99	11.1	7.0	1.6
1999-2000	11.3	6.8	1.6
2000-01	11.2	6.9	1.5
2001-02	11.5	7.2	1.5
2002-03	11.3	7.8	1.7
2003-04	11.0	7.5	1.6
2004-05	11.5	7.4	1.5
2005-06	11.8	7.7	1.6
2006-07	11.6	7.8	1.7
2007-08	11.9	7.8	1.5

[1] Estimates are presented in decimal format. An estimate of 11.5 years means 11 years 6 months.

Source:

Survey of English Housing, SEH15 dataset

CABINET OFFICE

Jobseeker's Allowance: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants in each constituency in Wales had been claiming the allowance for *(a)* up to three, *(b)* between three and six, *(c)* between six and 12 and *(d)* between 12 and 24 months in each month since September 2009; and if she will make a statement. [310509]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question concerning how many and what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claimants in each constituency in Wales had been claiming the allowance for (a) up to three, (b) between three and six, (c) between six and 12 and (d) between 12 and 24 months in each month since September 2009. (310509)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system. Table 1 shows the number of computerised claims of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for people, aged 16 or over resident in each parliamentary constituency in Wales, by duration of the claim. Table 2 shows the percentage of all claimants in each constituency by duration of the claim.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Tables 1 and 2 will be placed in the Library of the House.

Official Residences: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office with reference to the answer of 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1303W, on official residences: repairs and maintenance, what the cost was of the works associated with Crown Proposal 08/00696/1884. [308315]

Angela E. Smith: Information on capital expenditure in 2008-09 on improving Cabinet Office buildings, including the Downing street estate are included in the annual Cabinet Office resource accounts. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which websites her Department's staff are blocked from accessing on networked computers. [310764]

Michael Jabez Foster: The Government Equalities Office uses intranet services provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). Access is blocked to unacceptable internet sites and in addition staff are instructed not to attempt to access unacceptable sites.

Examples of the types of websites which are blocked and must not be accessed are those which are:

Pornographic

Discriminatory

Racist

Sexist

Homophobic

or those which:

Contain material, the possession of which would constitute a criminal offence, or

Promote or incite any form of criminal or terrorist activity.

It is not possible to list all the sites covered by these restrictions.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Databases

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the timetable is for the creation of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's lifestyle database; and what data sources will be used to create it. [309396]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission will be developing its Equality Measurement Framework over the next 18 months and will make available some data by the autumn of 2010.

The Equality Measurement Framework will in large part use existing information sources from national surveys and administrative data sets, such as statistics from the British Crime Survey, Census, Crown Prosecution Service, Health and Safety Executive, Labour Force Survey and Office for National Statistics Opinions Survey.

The Commission will also be asking data providers to consider developing these sources in ways that will allow more analysis which would be utilised by the Equality Measurement Framework. However no new data collection burden is expected to fall on individual employers or other private organisations.

EU Anti-Discrimination Legislation

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent assessment she has made of the UK's level of compliance with EU anti-discrimination legislation. [308221]

Maria Eagle: The European Commission sent two Reasoned Opinions to the UK Government on 20 November which questioned the compliance of our domestic legislation with two European directives in certain respects. We are studying these Reasoned Opinions carefully and will reply to the Commission towards the end of January.

National Equality Panel

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what groups have been invited to submit evidence for consideration by the National Equality Panel in its investigation into inequality. [308680]

Michael Jabez Foster: The National Equality Panel sent invitations to a range of equality lobby groups and academics to submit evidence to the National Equality Panel's call for evidence on economic inequality in the UK, in November 2008 to the end of January 2009. These groups included:

EHRC

Age Concern/Help the Aged

Children's Right's Alliance

Child Commissioner

Child Poverty Action Group

Stonewall

Lesbian and Gay Foundation

1990 Trust

The Runnymede Trust

Operation Black Vote

The Evangelical Alliance

The Muslim Council of Great Britain

British Humanist Association

The Interfaith Network

The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales

The Church of England

The National Secular Society

The Jewish Board of Deputies

The Hindu Council

The British Council of Disabled People

Leonard Cheshire Foundation

MENCAP

MIND

RADAR

RNIB

RNID

SCOPE

Women's National Commission

Fawcett Society

National Alliance of Women Organisations

Press for Change

CBI

British Retail Consortium

Federation of Small Business

ACAS

Audit Commission

ABI

IDeA

National and Diversity Forum

National Council for Voluntary Organisations

TUC

Consumer Focus

Engineering Employers Federation

The Tax Payers Alliance

Policy Exchange
Fabian Society
Institute for Public Policy Research
Pensions Policy Institute
Institute for Employment Studies
The New Policy Institute
One Parent Families
Shelter

And academics:

Professor. Danny Dorling
Professor. Jane Falkingham
Professor. Maria Evandrou
Dr. Anne Green
Professor Mark Stewart
Professor Gary Craig
Dr. Gloria Gordon
Glen Bramley
Jay Ginn

The invitation to submit evidence was also put online for anybody to respond to.

We received 25 responses, which are available online at:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/national_equality_panel/call_for_evidence.aspx

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Corruption

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General what guidelines have been issued to prosecutors on cases involving overseas corruption; and if she will make a statement. [310005]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud Office has published on its website a guide entitled 'Approach of the Serious Fraud Office to dealing with overseas corruption', which outlines the guidance available, see the following link:

http://www.sfo.gov.uk/media/28313/approach%20of%20the%20sfo%20to%20dealing%20with%20overseas%20corruption.pdf

In addition, the Crown Prosecution Service has legal guidance for prosecutors in relation to prosecuting offences of bribery and corruption. The guidance is published on the CPS website and is available at

http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/a_to_c/bribery_and_corruption/

There is also prosecution guidance on corporate offending, which has relevance to bribery and corruption offences, and is available at:

http://www.sfo.gov.uk/media/65228/coml%20joint%20guidance%20on%20corporate%20prosecutions%20for%20publication.pdf

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Serious Fraud Office has received representations on its policy document Approach of the Serious Fraud Office to dealing with overseas corruption. [310006]

The Solicitor-General: The Serious Fraud office has received helpful feedback on the guidance including offering assistance as it embeds and develops.

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Solicitor-General what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by her Department. [310521]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney Generals' Office occupies a single rented property which contains 1157sq metres of office space. The annual rental cost is £462,820. All of the available space is occupied.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Solicitor-General (1) how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format by the Law Officers Departments of each security classification have been submitted to the Iraq Inquiry; and if she will make a statement; [309369]

(2) whether any *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format sought from the Law Officers' Departments by the Iraq Inquiry have not been disclosed owing to the Government's obligations to foreign governments or international bodies; and if she will make a statement; [310176]

(3) how many and what proportion of the *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification requested by the Iraq Inquiry have been provided to it by the Law Officers' Departments; and if she will make a statement; [310186]

(4) how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other types of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification the Iraq Inquiry has requested from the Law Officers' Departments; and if she will make a statement. [310194]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith), on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 840-41W.

Israel

Richard Burden: To ask the Solicitor-General what meetings the Attorney-General had during her visit to Israel in January 2010 at which the subject of the operation of the law of universal jurisdiction in the UK in relation to the possibility of Israeli officials, politicians or military personnel being arrested if they travel to the UK was discussed. [310075]

The Solicitor-General *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: The matter was raised with the Attorney-General in meetings she had with Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon and Minister of Justice Yaacov Ne'eman on 5 January. In addition the issue was discussed at a meeting the Attorney had in Ramallah on 6 January with the Independent Commission on Human Rights and representatives from the Addameer Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association.

Richard Burden: To ask the Solicitor-General if she will place in the Library a copy of the speech by the Attorney General to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in January 2010 on the operation of the law of universal jurisdiction in the UK in relation to the possibility of Israeli officials, politicians or military personnel being arrested if they travel to the UK. [310077]

The Solicitor-General *[holding answer 11 January 2009]*: A copy of the Attorney General's Lionel Cohen Lecture at Hebrew university is available on the website of the British Embassy in Israel:

http://ukinisrael.fco.gov.uk/en/

and I will arrange for a copy to be deposited in the Library of the House.

Mr. Marshall-Andrews: To ask the Solicitor-General what *(a)* groups and *(b)* individuals the Attorney General met on her visit to Israel on 5 January 2010. [310435]

The Solicitor-General: On 5 January 2010 the Attorney General met with Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon and Minister of Justice Yaacov Ne'eman with accompanying officials. She also met with the President of the Supreme Court, Dorit Beinish and had an informal lunch with other Justices of the Supreme Court. Additionally she met with the Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson, President of Hebrew university and delivered a lecture to an audience of students, faculty members and media at the university. The following day she had further meetings in Ramallah with the Palestinian Minister of Justice AH Khashan and Attorney General Ahmad Al-Mughani, Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Council Dr Jallad, as well as representatives from the Independent Commission for Human Rights and representatives from Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association.

Mr. Marshall-Andrews: To ask the Solicitor-General whether the Attorney General's recent visit to Israel was arranged before 12 December 2009. [310436]

The Solicitor-General: Yes. The Attorney General was fulfilling a commitment to deliver the Lionel Cohen Lecture for 2009 at Hebrew university. This lecture was originally scheduled for June 2009, but was rearranged following the postponement of a visit at that time.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General how many employees of the Law Officers' Departments have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308505]

The Solicitor-General: The Attorney Generals' Office, Treasury Solicitors and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate have no recorded instances of any member of staff being convicted of a criminal offence during this period.

In respect of the Serious Fraud Office and the National Fraud Authority there have been fewer than five prosecutions or convictions of staff in any one year. Therefore this information is withheld on grounds of confidentiality.

The National Fraud Authority is unable to disclose this information for reasons of confidentiality. This applies to the period since the Agency's launch in 2008 to present.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has maintained a central record of staff convicted of more significant criminal offences from the year 2000. The CPS does not maintain centralised records of staff convicted of minor criminal acts and would incur disproportionate cost in retrieving this information.

Due to the very small number of staff convicted for more serious offences for each year, the CPS is not prepared to disclose the specific details on grounds of confidentiality. The following table provides information on the number of more serious convictions of CPS staff between 2000 and 2009:

Criminal convictions for significant offences

	Number
2000	1
2001	4
2002	3
2003	3
2004	1
2005	3
2006	3
2007	2
2008	4
2009	1

Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office (RCPO) became an independent Prosecutions Office on 18 April 2005 and was merged with the Crown Prosecution Service on 1 January 2010. There are no records of any former RCPO employees having been convicted of a criminal offence.

JUSTICE

Defamation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing a libel tribunal as the preliminary forum for libel cases; [309689]

(2) what assessment he has made of the merits of setting an upper limit for damages in libel cases. [309690]

Bridget Prentice: In response to concerns about the possibility that our libel laws are having a chilling effect on freedom of expression, the Government are setting up a working group to examine issues relating to the substantive law on libel. The terms of reference of this group are

> "to consider whether the law of libel, including the law relating to libel tourism, in England and Wales needs reform, and if so to make recommendations as to solutions."

The group will determine the priorities on which it wishes to focus, which may include the issues to which the hon. Member's questions refer.

The working group will include media and defamation lawyers, academics, and representatives from those campaigning for libel reform and the scientific community.

The scope of the group's considerations will extend to all aspects of substantive libel law in England and Wales, but will exclude issues relating to costs in defamation proceedings, where work is already under way. The working group is intended to have an intensive, short-term focus and has been requested to make recommendations by mid-March.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of measures to reduce defamation proceedings costs introduced on 1 October 2009. [309763]

Bridget Prentice: The Government indicated in the response to the consultation 'Controlling costs in defamation proceedings', published on 24 September 2009, that we would be monitoring the effect of the pilot and considering what further measures are needed to control costs in this area. The impact assessment further confirmed that the costs budgeting pilot would be reviewed after six months and that the measures relating to ATE insurance would be reviewed in the light of the recommendations arising from Lord Justice Jackson's review of civil litigation costs which I understand will be published on 14 January 2010.

Departmental Assets

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assets of his Department are planned to be sold in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; what the (i) description and (ii) book value is of each such asset; what the expected revenue is from each such sale; and by what date each such asset is expected to have been sold. [309921]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to the response provided by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) on 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 50W.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309874]

Mr. Wills: From January 2009 to January 2010, there were seven ministerial visits cancelled with less than 72 hours notice. The following table details the dates and venues.

Ministers appreciate the preparation and effort that goes into organising their visits; as such, any decision to cancel a visit will have been due to adverse weather, travel disruptions or essential parliamentary business.

Date of visit	*Venue*
2009	
2 February	Visit to East Hertfordshire Probation
5 February	Nottingham Speakers Corner Trust Event
5 February	Portsmouth Combined Court and Judge Black
26 February	Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre
27 March	HMP Bronzefield
12 November	Annual Youth Justice Convention and Wirral Youth Offending Service
2010	
8 January	Plymouth Probation Offices

Departmental Internet

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will list the redesigns of websites operated by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies since 27 June 2007; and what the (i) cost to the public purse and (ii) date of completion of each such redesign was. [306165]

Mr. Wills: A major refresh was carried out in early 2009 to improve the quality of the Ministry of Justice website:

www.justice.gov.uk

Costs include research, redesign, prototype build and content migration by external suppliers. It is not possible to separately identify the in-house staffing costs associated with this project and therefore these costs are not included. There were also no hosting or infrastructure changes.

(i) Cost: £92,968.75

(ii) Completed: April 2009

Visitors to the MOJ website have more than doubled since the creation of the Department in May 2007 and user research demonstrated a need to improve the user experience, providing easier access to information and services and delivering more engaging content. The redesigned website delivered simpler navigation, improved news and consultations pages, enhanced search functionality and the capability to deliver visual and audio content (i.e. embedding YouTube).

As there is more use of the internet for Government services, we need to make information about the work of the Department more readily available to citizens and the media, enhancing transparency and accountability for what we do. All our internet users—who include legal practitioners, academics and researchers—are able to use the range of resources published on our website either to work more efficiently within the justice system or to engage with the Department's day-to-day work and to contribute to our published consultations on proposals for change. This is the basis for investment in better web services for citizens.

(a) Other website redesign work carried out since 27 June 2007 for agencies of the Ministry of Justice:

Office of the Public Guardian

www.publicguardian.gov.uk

Cost is for work by external suppliers and does not include in-house staffing costs:

(i) Cost: £14,981.25

(ii) Completed: October 2007.

Tribunals service

www.tribunals.gov.uk

carried out a redesign using in-house resources. It is not possible to separately identify the in-house staffing costs associated with this project.

(i) Cost: not separately identified

(ii) Completed: November 2008.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice where potential victims of trafficking are accommodated whilst their case is assessed by the competent authority under the national referral mechanism. [309602]

Claire Ward: Potential victims of trafficking are able to access specialist supported accommodation from the time a referral is made into the national referral mechanism (NRM). This accommodation may be provided by the Government-funded service provider—the Poppy Project, or by other third sector organisations. This support is available throughout the NRM process. Additionally, victims that claim asylum are eligible for asylum support and may be accommodated by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS). Potential victims of trafficking under the age of 18 are accommodated by local authorities.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many safe accommodation beds for victims of human trafficking his Department plans to fund over the next three years. [309603]

Claire Ward: The Government have invested £3.9 million over two years (2009-10 to 2010-11) in specialist services for victims of all forms of human trafficking. This investment provides 54 safe accommodation beds on a rolling basis through the Poppy Project, and includes flexible support and safe accommodation arrangements for victims of trafficking for forced labour. The success of these arrangements will inform funding decisions for the 2011-12 period and beyond.

Life Imprisonment

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people sentenced to a life term have been convicted of a homicide offence following their release in the last 10 years. [309852]

Claire Ward: Data taken from the police national computer (PNC) show that 10 people convicted of homicide (covering murder, manslaughter and infanticide) between 2000 and 2008 had previously received a life sentence for an earlier offence. It is not possible to give complete data where those already in prison may have been convicted of a further homicide.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police. Data before 2000 are not available.

Further information on homicides is collected and published by the Home Office and can be found at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0209.pdf

National Offender Management Service: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether NAPO and Unison will be consulted on planned reductions to staffing levels in the National Offender Management Service headquarters. [309671]

Maria Eagle: NAPO and Unison will be informed about planned reductions to staffing levels in National Offender Management Service (NOMS) headquarters through the NOMS Trade Union Consultation Meeting structure alongside other trade unions representing NOMS staff.

Prisoners' Release

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answers of 24 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 85W and 1 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 590W, on prisoners' release, whether the investigating officer's report was completed by 4 December 2009; on what date he expects to write to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford; and if he will make a statement. [308235]

Maria Eagle: The investigating officer's report was completed on 4 December 2009. I wrote to the hon. Member on 13 January 2010.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of his Department's most recent staff survey; which organisation carried out the survey; and what the cost of the survey was. [309838]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) will publish its October 2009 staff survey results on our website in early March. Following publication we will place a copy of the results in the Library.

ORC International carried out the survey. Their services were procured by the Cabinet Office to deliver the first cross-Civil Service People Survey. The People Survey replaced all existing staff surveys in the civil service with a single questionnaire.

The final cost of the 2009-10 People Survey for DFID is expected to be approximately £50,000. By procuring a single supplier for staff surveys in 2009-10, the civil service has saved 35 per cent. on the total cost of staff surveys in 2008-09.

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [309913]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Training is provided to Ministers on a range of issues including handling the media, as part of their induction and continuing development in order to carry out their duties effectively under the 'Ministerial Code'.

Non-Governmental Organisations: Finance

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what criteria are used to determine which organisations take part in *(a)* Partnership

Programme arrangements, *(b)* Strategic Grant agreements and *(c)* Strategic Framework Partnership agreements; [309745]

(2) what criteria are used by his Department to decide which non-governmental organisations receive funding under Partnership Programme Arrangements; and if he will publish those criteria. [309809]

Mr. Michael Foster: The most recent competitive call for proposals for Partnership Programme Arrangements (PPAs) was held in 2006. The Department for International Development's criteria for Partnership Programme arrangement applications are posted on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Working-with-DFID/Funding-Schemes/Funding-for-not-for-profit-organisations/PPAs/

DFID does not have any Strategic Grant Agreements or Strategic Framework Partnership Agreements.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* purposes and *(b)* terms are of each current (i) Strategic Grant Agreement and (ii) Strategic Framework Partnership Agreement entered into by his Department. [309747]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not have any current Strategic Grant Agreements or Strategic Framework Partnership Agreements.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to improve the mechanisms for *(a)* accountability and *(b)* performance measurement of expenditure from grants provided by his Department. [309808]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) requires all grant recipients to provide audited financial statements and also checks on the use of funds by conducting annual monitoring reviews. Performance measurement has been improved through the introduction of a strengthened results framework at the project level which details objectives and expected outcomes.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many non-governmental organisations in receipt of grants from his Department are not required to provide audit information including itemised expenditure in respect of such grants. [309810]

Mr. Michael Foster: All organisations in receipt of funding from the Department for International Development are required to provide evidence about the use of funds through Annual Audited Accounts or special audited statements.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any funding provided by his Department to non-governmental organisations may be spent by them on communications and public relations activities. [309811]

Mr. Michael Foster: Funding provided to non-governmental organisations by the Department for International Development must meet the development assistance or humanitarian assistance tests of the International Development Act. In addition all grants must be spent in accordance with the specific objectives and criteria set out in each of the funding arrangements.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of non-governmental organisations in receipt of grants from his Department *(a)* audit themselves and *(b)* are independently audited in relation to their expenditure of such funding. [309812]

Mr. Michael Foster: Grants provided by the Department for International Development require evidence about the use of such funds through the receipt of Annual Audited Accounts, or through a special audited statement. In both circumstances this follows an independent examination.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to ensure greater accountability of expenditure by third party organisations of Partnership Programme Arrangements funding on projects. [309813]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Partnership Programme Arrangements (PPAs) provide funding in support of mutually agreed high level developmental outcomes. The Department for International Development (DFID) holds PPA organisations accountable for achieving agreed outcomes. DFID does not directly monitor the effectiveness of a PPA organisation's in-country partners.

We are currently working with all PPA organisations to review and strengthen their performance frameworks to ensure greater accountability against agreed outcomes.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to his contribution of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 645, on Afghanistan and the EU Council, how much Ministry of Defence spending on humanitarian aid will contribute to the Government's 0.7 per cent. overseas development commitment. [309672]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The only Ministry of Defence (MOD) contribution to UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) is through its joint management of the Conflict Pool. The Conflict Pool is a tri-departmental fund managed with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID). Approximately 80 per cent. of spending under the Conflict Pool is projected to be ODA eligible. The MOD is expected to manage approximately £60 million of Conflict Pool funds in 2009-10.

Trades Union Congress

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided under the Partnership Programme Arrangement to the Trades Union Congress in 2009-10; and on what terms such grants are made. [309746]

Mr. Michael Foster: In 2009-10 the Department for International Development (DFID) provided the Trades Union Congress (TUC) with £1.2 million under the Partnership Programme Arrangement (PPA).

This support was made available on the basis that it would be used solely for development assistance purposes as defined in the International Development Act (2002).

As with all other PPAs, the TUC are required to report annually against mutually agreed outcomes which are set out in their PPA performance framework.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for what reasons his Department enters into Partnership Programme arrangements with the Trades Union Congress; and if he will make a statement. [309748]

Mr. Michael Foster: Trade Unions form an important part of civil society globally. The Department for International Development's (DFID's) Partnership Programme Arrangement (PPA) with the Trades Union Congress (TUC) enables support to be provided to trade unions in the developing world that are contributing to poverty reduction as part of an international network.

Uganda: Homosexuality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has made representations to the Ugandan government on the Anti-Homosexuality Bill before the Ugandan Parliament. [309707]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) is extremely concerned by the introduction of this Bill and is working closely with the Foreign Office and with European Union (EU) colleagues on this issue. The UK Government have made clear our concerns in representations to Ugandan Ministers, including by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to President Museveni and my noble Friend Baroness Kinnock to Foreign Minister Kutesa, at the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The UK High Commissioner in Kampala has also lobbied the Prime Minister and other Ugandan Ministers on the issue. Sweden, as local EU presidency in Uganda, led an EU démarche to the Ugandan Foreign Ministry in December 2009. The Head of DFID Uganda has raised the issue with Uganda's Minister of Finance and senior officials.

The Bill is a private members Bill and has not been adopted by the Government of Uganda or approved by Parliament. However, we will take account of the Bill's progress when taking any decisions on future funding for Uganda.

Uganda: Human Rights

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve the human rights situation in Uganda. [309708]

Mr. Thomas: The UK has lobbied the Government of Uganda (GoU) on contraventions of human rights. The British high commission and the Department for International Development's (DFID's) office in Kampala follow the situation closely and regularly discuss human rights issues with the GoU. For example we raised concerns over the use of force and restrictions on media freedoms during the September 2009 riots.

DFID also provides direct assistance to a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening the protection of human rights. DFID supports the Ugandan Human Rights Commission programme of civic education, with a focus on citizens' rights. We are supporting the police and civil society groups to improve public order policing under the Deepening Democracy Programme. DFID also contributes to the Independent Development Fund that provides grants to human rights organisations in Uganda.

Uganda: Overseas Aid

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which *(a)* human and *(b)* civil rights organisations have received funding from his Department in supporting their work in Uganda in each of the last five years; what allocations have been made to such organisations for each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [309706]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) supports human and civil rights organisations working in Uganda through both bilateral and multilateral programmes. Organisations supported through both these channels for each of the past five years are presented in the following tables.

(a) Human Rights	*Organisations supported through bilateral and multilateral channels*
2005	Uganda National Health Consumers Association (UNHCO)
2006	Uganda National Health Consumers Association (UNHCO)
	Family Planning Association of Uganda (FPAU)
	African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse (ANPPCAN)
	National Union of Disabled Person in Uganda (NUDIPU)
	Katakwi Urafiki Foundation
	Land and Equity Movement (LEMU)
	The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-U)
	National Union of Researchers and Research Users (NURRU)
2007	Uganda National Health Consumers Association (UNHCO)
	Family Planning Association of Uganda (FPAU)
	African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse (ANPPCAN)
	National Union of Disabled Person in Uganda (NUDIPU)
	Katakwi Urafiki Foundation
	Land and Equity Movement (LEMU)
	The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-U)
	National Union of Researchers and Research Users (NURRU)

(a) Human Rights	*Organisations supported through bilateral and multilateral channels*
	MIFUMI Human Rights Defenders Network (MHRDN)
	Platform for Labour Action (PLA)
	Save the Children in Uganda (SCFiU
	Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development (HEPS)
2008	Family Planning Association of Uganda (FPAU)
	African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse (ANPPCAN)
	National Union of Disabled Persons in Uganda (NUDIPU)
	Katakwi Urafiki Foundation
	Land and Equity Movement (LEMU)
	The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-U)
	National Union of Researchers and Research Users (NURRU)
	MIFUMI Human Rights Defenders Network (MHRDN)
	Platform for Labour Action (PLA)
	Save the Children in Uganda (SCFiU)
	Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development (HEPS)
2008	Straight Talk Foundation
	National Forum of People Living with HIV/AIDS Networks in Uganda (NAFOPHANU)
	Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET)
	Orphans Community Based Organisation (OCBO)
	Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL)
	Making Positive Living Attractive to Youth (Ma-PLAY)
	ACORD
2008	Amnesty International
2009	Land and Equity Movement (LEMU)
	The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA-U)
	National Union of Researchers and Research Users (NURRU)
	MIFUMI Human Rights Defenders Network (MHRDN)
	Platform for Labour Action (PLA)
	Save the Children in Uganda (SCFiU)
	Coalition for Health Promotion and Social Development (HEPS)
2009	Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD)
	Action for Development (ACFODE)
	Wakiso Community Development Agency (WACODA)
	Uganda Private Midwives Association (UPMA)
	African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN)
	Mental Health Uganda (MHU)
	Sese Health Efforts for Development (SHED)
	Huys Link Community Initiative (HUYSLINCI)
	Makerere Women Dev Association (MAWDA)
	African International Christian Ministry (AICM)
	Bugiri District NGO Forum (BDNGF)
	Buddu Social Development Association (BUSODA)
	HEPS
	Kyenjojo District NGO/CBO Forum
	Child Aid Uganda (CHAU)
	Pallisa Civil Society Organisations Network (PACONET)
	Uganda Association for Employment and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Elderly (UAEEEPE)
	Reach the Youth Uganda (RYU)
2009	Straight Talk Foundation
	National Forum of People Living with HIV/AIDS Networks in Uganda (NAFOPHANU)
	Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET)
	Orphans Community Based Organisation (OCBO)
	Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL)
	Making Positive Living Attractive to Youth (Ma-PLAY)
	ACORD
2009	Amnesty International
2009	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)—child rights in Karamoja
(b) Civil rights	
2005	Uganda Electoral Commission
	Uganda Media Women's Association
	Uganda Joint Christian Council
	Institute for War and Peace Reporting
	Uganda Journalists Safety Committee
2006	Uganda Electoral Commission
	Uganda Media Women's Association
	Uganda Joint Christian Council
	Institute for War and Peace Reporting
	Uganda Journalists Safety Committee
2008	Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDASA)
2009	Uganda Human Rights Commission
	Inter-religious Council of Uganda (IRCU)
	Kabarole Research Centre
	MS Uganda
2009	Institute for Democracy in Africa (IDASA)

The agreed funding allocation to these organisations for the next three years are provided in the following table.

Organisation	*Activity*	*2010*	*2011*	£ *2012*
MIFUMI Human Rights Defenders (MHRDN)	Rights of women and children experiencing violence and abuse	78,000	—	—
Platform for Labour Action (PLA)	Right to social security	7,000	—	—
Save the Children in Uganda (SCFiU)	Child rights protection	78,000	—	—
HEPS	Maternal health rights	11,000	—	—
Katakwi Urafiki Foundation	Human rights and peace building	13,000	—	—
Electoral Commission of Uganda	Voter education, voter registration etc.	300,000	300,000	300,000
Uganda Human Rights Commission	Civic education, public order training for police	50,000	50,000	—
MS Uganda	Civic education	30,000	30,000	—
Inter-Religious Council of Uganda	Civic education	85,000	85,000	—
Kabarole Research Centre	Civic education	60,000	60,000	—
Straight Talk Foundation	Sexual and reproductive health and rights	260,000	—	—
National Forum of People Living with HIV/AIDS Networks in Uganda (NAFOPHANU)	Rights of people living with HIV/AIDS	92,000	—	—
Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET)	Legal and human rights response to HIV/AIDS	105,000	—	—
Orphans Community Based Organisation (OCBO)	Rights of people living with HIV/AIDS	33,000	—	—
Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL)	Rights of people living with HIV/AIDS	65,000	—	—
Making Positive Living Attractive to Youth (Ma-PL AY)	Rights of people living with HIV/AIDS	33,000	—	—
ACORD	HIV/AIDS rights in the workplace	67,000	—	—
Amnesty International	Right to education	79,000	79,000	79,000
Healthlink Worldwide	Child rights (regional, including Kenya and Tanzania)	170,000	170,000	170,000

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department has provided to Uganda in each of the last five years; and what aid he expects his Department to provide to Uganda in each of the next five years. [309709]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) signed a 10-year partnership agreement with the Government of Uganda (GoU) in November 2007. Under this partnership agreement the UK Government pledged £700 million worth of development support to the GoU over the period 2007-17.

DFID aid to Uganda in each of the last five years was as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	61
2005-06	72
2006-07	78
2007-08	65
2008-09	73

Indicative aid allocations to Uganda over the next five years are as follows:

	£ million
2009-10	75
2010-11	85
2011-12	85
2012-13	85
2013-14	85

Aid provided by DFID to Uganda is conditional on progress in reducing poverty, strengthening financial management and respecting human rights and international obligations.

HEALTH

Cardiovascular System: Diseases

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many lower limb *(a)* revascularisation and *(b)* angioplasty procedures were carried out in each strategic health authority in the NHS in each of the last five years. [309972]

Ann Keen: We are unable to provide data for revascularisation. There are no specific codes for 'revascularisation of lower limb' in the national classification (OPCS-4) and cannot thus be separately identified.

Tables providing the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) with a primary or secondary procedure of angioplasty of the lower limb, by strategic health authority (SHA) of treatment for the years 2004-05 to 2008-09 have been placed in the Library.

In 2006-07 there was a SHA configuration change, where 28 SHAs merged into 10. For this reason, data for 2006-07 to 2008-09 is based on the new configuration and the data prior to this is based on the old configuration.

It should be noted that the number of FCEs does not represent the number of patients as a patient may have more than one episode within a year.

Reference should be made to the footnotes and clinical codes when interpreting the data.

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on *(a)* television, *(b)* radio, *(c)* print and *(d)* online advertising in (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [309932]

Phil Hope: The Department's estimated expenditure on advertising for the 2009-10 financial year is given in the following table. These are provisional figures because advertising media allocations for some campaigns are still subject to change.

Channel	*Estimated expenditure (£)*
Television (including interactive TV)	26,150,885
Radio	6,529,145
Print	9,367,713
Online	9,427,545

The figures do not include recruitment or classified advertising costs. Advertising spend is defined as covering only media spend (inclusive of agency commissions but excluding production costs, Central Office of Information commission and VAT). All figures exclude advertising rebates and audit adjustments and therefore may differ from Central Office of Information official turnover figures.

A total budget figure for the 2010-11 financial year cannot be provided at this stage as detailed planning for some campaigns is under way and advertising media allocations have not yet been finalised.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days sickness absence were taken by staff in his Department and its agencies in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the cost to his Department was of such absence. [305555]

Phil Hope: The Department gives managing sickness absence the importance it deserves. Our policy 'Managing Sickness Absence—promoting attendance at work' promotes a positive approach to managing and responding to sickness absence.

Human Resources routinely make contact with line managers and members of staff at agreed absence trigger points, advising on the policy and support available to maximise attendance and support health and well-being at work. This can include occupational health referrals, return to work interviews, making use of the employee assistance programme, and consideration of reasonable adjustments to the role or physical environment.

Human Resources provide continued support to managers and members of staff in maintaining acceptable attendance levels and advising on process for formal action where acceptable attendance levels cannot be sustained.

In December 2008, the Department published its policy on health and well-being for all its staff. One of the aims of the policy is to improve attendance at work.

A new more proactive occupational health service is being tendered now which will also have an impact on attendance at work.

The number of days of sickness absence taken by staff in the core Department in each of the last 12 months are as follows:

	Total number of sickness absence days
December 2008	1,694
January 2009	1,552
February 2009	1,297
March 2009	1,385
April 2009	1,290
May 2009	1,361
June 2009	1,355
July 2009	1,647
August 2009	1,230
September 2009	1,319
October 2009	1,583
November 2009	1,704

Total estimated cost of absence for period was £2,782,214. In future this information for the core Department will be published on its website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/index.htm

The number of days of sick leave taken by staff in the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in each of the last 12 months are presented as follows. Please note that MHRA sickness figures run one month behind so the year to date figures are as follows:

	Total number of sickness absence days
November 2008	692
December 2008	796
January 2009	885
February 2009	794
March 2009	616
April 2009	785
May 2009	698
June 2009	635
July 2009	815
August 2009	998
September 2009	831
October 2009	831

Total cost of absence in MHRA for the period was £1,254,772.94.

The number of days of sick leave taken by staff in the NHS Procurement and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) in each of the last 12 months are as follows:

	Total number of sickness absence days
December 2008	209.5
January 2009	149
February 2009	117.5
March 2009	116.5
April 2009	89

	Total number of sickness absence days
May 2009	82.5
June 2009	79.5
July 2009	119
August 2009	103.5
September 2009	71.5
October 2009	102
November 2009	46

For the period December 2008 to November 2009 the estimated total cost of sickness absence to NHS PASA was £177,815.

Health Services: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received the Help with Health Costs grant in 2008-09; what the average amount received was; what the eligibility criteria for the grant are; and what the main reasons for refusing applications were in that period. [309377]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: No grant is payable under Help with Health Costs.

The words "Help with Health Costs" are used as a description of the extensive range of exemptions and remissions created to help patients meet the cost of certain national health service charges. Further details are provided in the leaflet HC11 Help with Health Costs, available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4078082

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Heart Diseases: Health Services

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 479W, on heart diseases: health services, what the timetable is for specialised commissioning groups to designate services for adults with congenital heart disease. [310538]

Ann Keen: There is no national timetable for Specialised Commissioning Groups (SCGs) to designate services for adults with congenital heart disease. The service specification standards for these services are expected to be officially signed off by SCGs at a meeting on 28 January 2010. It is for each SCG then to decide on a timetable for the work on designation of services for adults with congenital heart disease according to local priorities.

Home Care Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research projects were commissioned by his Department from the Personal Social Services Research Unit for the purposes of informing the Green Paper on Shaping the Future of Care Together; and how much that unit was paid for each such project. [310100]

Phil Hope: The Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) undertook a rolling programme of work for the Department in connection with the Green Paper under the terms of a specification that was reviewed and agreed at regular intervals. The standard specification was supplemented by a number of ad hoc requests.

The total cost to the Department of the PSSRU input was £280,000 in 2008-09 and £128,000 in 2009-10.

Hospitals: Road Salting and Gritting

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated amount is of *(a)* road salt and *(b)* grit supplies held by hospitals. [310555]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect data centrally on the estimated amount of road salt and grit supplies held by hospitals in England.

Liver Diseases: Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects to announce the appointment of a national clinical director for liver disease; [309650]

(2) what recent progress has been made on developing a National Liver Strategy; and if he will make a statement. [309651]

Ann Keen: We are about to appoint a new National Clinical Director for Liver Disease. Their name will be made public shortly.

NHS Litigation Authority

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many inspections were carried out by Det Norske Veritas on behalf of the NHS Litigation Authority in each of the last three years; and how much the Authority paid to Det Norske Veritas in each such year. [310173]

Ann Keen: Det Norske Veritas (DNV) has been carrying out assessments for the NHS Litigation Authority since 1 April 2007. In 2007-08, they carried out 220 assessments. and in 2008-09 they carried out 170 assessments. DNV are expected to carry out 247 assessments in 2009-10.

We are unable to provide information relating to payments made to DNV because this is deemed commercially sensitive.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each NHS trust paid the NHS Litigation Authority in each of the last three years. [310175]

Ann Keen: The information requested is contained in the document "NHS Contribution Data—2006-09". A copy has been placed in the Library.

The data are also available from the Factsheets on the NHS Litigation Authority's website:

www.nhsla.com

NHS: Dental Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to inform the public of dental practices which are taking on new NHS patients. [310412]

Ann Keen: Information on dental practices taking on new patients for national health service treatment is available nationally from NHS Direct and NHS Choices. Anyone having difficulty in finding an NHS dentist should contact their primary care trust (PCT). All PCTs provide helplines. New services are opening all the time as PCTs work towards providing access for all who want it by, at the latest, March 2011. Where appropriate, PCTs advertise these services locally as they open.

NHS: North West

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 480-90W, how many full-time equivalent *(a)* managers and *(b)* senior managers there were in each salary band in each trust in the North West in each of the last five years. [310062]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

NHS: Standards

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each primary care trust is expected to spend consulting on the NHS Constitution; and if he will make a statement. [310800]

Ann Keen: The Department has not set any expected levels of spending.

Nurses: Manpower

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses were employed in the NHS in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [310464]

Ann Keen: The total number of nurses employed in the national health service in 1997 and 2008 are set out as follows

	Headcount	*Full-time equivalent (FTE)*
1997	300,467	246,011
2008	386,112	315,410

The number of nurses employed in the NHS in 2009 will be released in March 2010 upon publication of the NHS Workforce Census.

The total number of all qualified nurses (including practice nurses), midwives and health visitors has increased by 81,000 (25 per cent.) since 1997.

Nurses: Pay

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average salary was for a nurse in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2009. [310465]

Ann Keen: The average salary of a nurse was £19,600 in 1998-99 and £30,900 in 2009. No comparable figures are available prior to 1998-99 as this was the first year in which the NHS Staff earnings survey was undertaken.

Notes:

1. In the context of this answer the term "Nurse" has been interpreted as a qualified nurse

2. The source of the 1998-99 figure is the NHS Earnings Survey 1998-99, available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Pressreleases/DH_4005045

3. The source of the 2008-09 figure is the NHS Information Centre *NHS Staff Earnings April-June 2009*, available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/workforce/nhs-staff-earnings/nhs-staff-earnings-april-to-june-2009

4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £100.

Nutrition: Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were recorded as having *(a)* an admission and *(b)* a discharge episode with a diagnosis of (i) malnutrition, (ii) nutritional anaemias and (iii) other nutritional deficiencies in each NHS trust in each month since September 2008; [309122]

(2) how many people were recorded as having *(a)* an admission and *(b)* a discharge episode with a diagnosis of (i) malnutrition, (ii) nutritional anaemias and (iii) other nutritional deficiencies in each NHS trust in each year between 1997-98 and 2008-09. [309123]

Gillian Merron: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Obesity: Surgery

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment has been made of the level of availability of bariatric surgery on the NHS *(a)* in each strategic health authority area, *(b)* in each primary care trust area and *(c)* nationwide; [310125]

(2) what criteria are used by each primary care trust in deciding whether to provide bariatric surgery for obese patients. [310126]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not undertaken an assessment on the availability of bariatric surgery in the national health service. It is up to primary care trusts as local commissioners and providers of services to determine the most appropriate methods to deliver health care to their populations, based on clinical need and effectiveness, and following medical advice.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) provides "Guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children", available at www.nice.org.uk/CG43. This guidance contains criteria for assessing whether to provide bariatric surgery for people who are obese.

Preventive Medicine

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to encourage people to take up preventive health services. [310414]

Gillian Merron: 'High Quality for All: NHS Next Stage Review Final Report' (2008) committed primary care trusts to work in partnership with local authorities to commission comprehensive well-being and prevention services particularly covering obesity, alcohol harm, drug addiction, smoking, sexual health and mental health. A copy has already been placed in the Library.

The Department has also sponsored guidance to improve commissioning of preventive services which was published by the Royal Society of Public Health in December 2009, and this is part of a programme of work to improve commissioning of health and well-being services.

Community pharmacies already play a key role providing local services such as stopping smoking, weight management and supporting drug misusers. A range of other initiatives and approaches are also being introduced to encourage the take up of preventive services and to offer support, such as the Lets Get Moving initiative which screens for physical inactivity. Other screening programmes include those for breast, cervical and bowel cancer.

Strokes: Health Services

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the 2007 National Stroke Strategy in improving patient outcomes. [310415]

Ann Keen: Improving stroke care is a national priority for the national health service and is a tier one vital sign in the NHS Operating Framework. Data collected on primary care trusts performance against the vital sign show improvements in the delivery of patient care for stroke patients. Now almost 60 per cent. of people spend 90 per cent. of their time in a stroke unit; a marked improvement since publication of the National Stroke Strategy. The most recent Royal College of Physicians' "National Sentinel Stroke Audit" conducted in 2008 shows a consistent improvement in performance across nine key indicators; for example there are increasing numbers of hospitals with acute stroke beds with 96 per cent. of hospitals in England now offering specialist acute stroke care.

Since the strategy was published in December 2007, 28 stroke networks have been set up across England to work with commissioners and providers to improve services, and thereby, patient outcomes. Evaluation of the first part of the ACT F.A.S.T campaign has shown this to be one of the most effective public awareness campaigns having reached 82 per cent. of the population. The campaign has led to an increase of 55 per cent. in stroke-related 999 calls.

We intend to commission an independent evaluation of the implementation of the National Stroke Strategy later this year.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many referrals were made to the Child Maintenance Options website from Jobcentre Plus in each month since July 2008; how many telephone contacts were made to the Child Maintenance Options helpline in each such month; and how many unique visits the Child Maintenance Options website received. [300691]

Helen Goodman: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many referrals were made to the Child Maintenance Options website from Jobcentre Plus in each month since July 2008; how many telephone contacts were made to the Child Maintenance Options helpline in each such month; and how many unique visits the Child Maintenance Options website received. [300691]

Jobcentre Plus in England, Wales and Scotland provide a leaflet for all new clients with a child maintenance interest to introduce the Child Maintenance Options service and then asks them if they wish to be referred. Those who agree have their contact details passed on to Child Maintenance Options, which subsequently contacts them by phone. Although the Child Maintenance Options website address is included in the leaflet, Jobcentre Plus customers are not directly referred to the Child Maintenance Options website.

The number of telephone contacts made to the Child Maintenance Options service and the number of unique visits to the Child Maintenance Options website are provided in the attached table. The table also includes information on the successful outbound contacts.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of telephone contacts made to the Child Maintenance Options service July 2008 to September 2009

	Child Maintenance Options calls received[1,2]	*Number of successful contacts on outbound calls*[4]
July[3]	3,800	9,900
August	3,800	6,200
September	4,600	6,200
October	5,400	4,800
November	5,800	10,000
December	3,900	9,100
January	6,400	13,300
February	6,300	15,000
March	6,900	15,000
April	6,300	12,800
May	7,800	14,000
June	7,500	16,200
July	11,300	15,600
August	8,400	13,000
September	13,300	14,200

Number of unique visits to the Child Maintenance Options website July 2008 to September 2009

	Unique visits to the Child Maintenance Options website[4]
July	6,000
August	13,700
September	22,300
October	28,500
November	32,200
December	20,400
January	39,600
February	33,400
March	35,500
April	30,800
May	31,100
June	31,100
July	61,100
August	50,800
September	72,300

[1] Figures for the calls received are rounded to the nearest 100.
[2] Calls received exclude those outside working hours.
[3] Figures for July include those from the prototype phase of the service as well as the live running from 14 July onwards.
[4] Represents the number of unduplicated (counted only once) visitors to the Option website over the course of a specified time period.

Departmental Assets

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assets of her Department are planned to be sold in *(a)* 2009-10 and *(b)* 2010-11; what the (i) description and (ii) book value is of each such asset; what the expected revenue is from each such sale; and by what date each asset is expected to have been sold. [309924]

Jim Knight: The Government have stated their intention to realise £16 billion in asset disposals over the period 2011-14 and will publish further details of opportunities to commercialise business assets in the coming weeks.

One of this Department's key investment strategies during the 2004 Spending Review period was to reduce asset ownership and to contract for key services. The successful implementation of that strategy resulted in a greatly reduced asset base.

The DWP does not own any land or property. Asset transfer has already been completed through a PFI contract known as PRIME, returning exchequer receipts of £250m in 1998 and £100 million in 2003 when the Department outsourced its estate. This arrangement covers the majority of property occupied by the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (a Crown non-departmental public body). There is currently no intention to sell any of the Commission's assets during the years in question.

Planned asset sales for the Health and Safety Executive (a Crown non-departmental public body) are outlined in the following table:

£000

	2009-10		*2010-11*		*2011-12*		*2012-13*		*2013-14*	
	NBV	*Sales*	*NBV*	*Sales*	*NBV*	*Sales*	*NBV*	*Sales*	*NBV*	*Sales*
Vehicles[1]	235	262	362	362	347	347	277	277	362	362
Land[2]	5	1	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Vehicle sales are mainly related to the Health and Safety Executive's Private User Scheme which provides vehicles on a three year contract for staff travelling in excess of 5,000 business miles per annum on a shared cost basis and will occur over the course of the year as individual vehicles are replaced.

[2] The land transactions relate to some very minor works at the Health and Safety Laboratory in Buxton mainly around improving access to the site. The timing of these transactions depends on a number of factors but should take place by March 2010 and April 2010 respectively.

The DWP disposed of the majority of its vehicle fleet in August 2007. The Department's IS/IT and telephony requirements were outsourced to EDS (now part of Hewlett Packard) and BT in 2005.

Leasehold improvements to Jobcentre Plus sites are classed as assets but cannot be disposed of independently so the impact on value is negligible, as the assets themselves (the buildings) are not owned by the Department.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many planned visits by Ministers in her Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309871]

Jim Knight: The information that requested could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 her Department received in 2008; and how many of these received a substantive response within 20 days. [305486]

Jim Knight: In 2008, this Department received 1,469 requests of which 63 per cent. were dealt with within the 20 working day deadline. However, in the first three quarters of this year an average of 76 per cent. have been met within 20 working days.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days sickness absence were taken by staff in her Department and its agencies in each of the last 12 months; and what the cost to her Department was of such absence. [305552]

Jim Knight: Information about sick leave taken by staff in the Department for Work and Pensions is not reported in precisely the format requested. In accordance with cross-government arrangements, the Department reports sick leave using annual average working days lost (AWDL) per full-time employee. This is calculated and reported monthly on a rolling year basis.

AWDL

		Agencies		
	Jobcentre Plus	*Pension, Disability and Carers Service*	*Other, including central directorates*	*DWP overall*
November 2008	9.7	9.5	7.1	9.3
December 2008	9.7	9.4	7.1	9.3
January 2009	9.5	9.3	7.0	9.1
February 2009	9.4	9.2	6.9	9.0
March 2009	9.3	9.1	6.7	3.9
April 2009	9.1	9.0	6.7	8.7
May 2009	9.0	9.0	6.7	8.7
June 2009	8.8	8.8	6.6	8.5
July 2009	8.8	8.8	6.6	8.5
August 20009	8.7	8.8	6.8	8.5

AWDL

	Jobcentre Plus	*Agencies Pension, Disability and Carers Service*	*Other, including central directorates*	*DWP overall*
September 2009	8.6	8.7	6.8	8.4
October 2009	8.6	8.7	6.8	8.4

The total amount of salary paid during periods of sickness leave between 1 November 2008 and 31 October 2009 totalled £62 million. For comparative purposes the cost of salary paid for sickness absence between November 2008 and October 2009 was 2 per cent. of the total pay bill for 2008-09, the latest available figure.

The Department has cut sickness absence by nearly a day per full-time employee, on average, in the last year and by nearly two days in the last two years. Further reducing sickness absence and its associated cost remains a major departmental priority.

Departmental Taxis

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many miles *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department and its predecessors have travelled by taxi in the course of their official duties in each year since 1997; and at what cost to the public purse in each such year. [302699]

Jim Knight: Information on mileage travelled by taxi is not available. Information on taxi travel expenditure is only available from 2005-06. Details of the separate payments made in respect of Ministers and officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Period	*Expenditure (£ million)*
2005-06	1.89
2006-07	2.45
2007-08	2.02
2008-09	2.29
2008-09	1.19

Expenditure by the Department on taxis needs to be seen in the context of a Department employing well over 100,000 people. An estimated 40 per cent. of the expenditure on taxis shown here is incurred to enable disabled members of staff to travel to and from work. This expenditure represents payment by the Department of costs which, in the case of other employers, could be claimed for under the "Access to Work" programme which Government Departments voluntarily forego.

Electronic Government: Publicity

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secreta[illegible]f State for Work and Pensions what the total cos[illegible]epartment was of the directgov advertising ca[illegible] DirectGov. [310280]

Jim Knight: The cost of production and airtime purchased to date combined is £2.05 million.

Directgov has the potential to enable government to make substantial savings in shifting from traditional to digital channels. For those savings to be realised, it is vital that the public are aware of and trust Directgov as the Government's official website. The aim of the campaign is to increase awareness so that Directgov is the first site people think of for Government information, and one which they both trust and recommend to others.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much her Department spent on the production of the directgov advertisement Go DirectGov; and how much it expects to spend on purchasing television airtime for the advertisement. [310281]

Jim Knight: The cost of production and airtime purchased to date combined is £2.05 million. Unfortunately we cannot detail the specific costs of airtime and the production of the advertisement as this would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of Directgov by weakening our bargaining position with media suppliers and also weakening our position in a competitive environment by revealing market-sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to competitors.

Directgov has the potential to enable Government to make substantial savings in shifting from traditional to digital channels. For those savings to be realised, it is vital that the public are aware of and trust Directgov as the Government's official website. The aim of the campaign is to increase awareness so that Directgov is the first site people think of for government information, and one which they both trust and recommend to others.

Employment Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people have found work through *(a)* the day one offer, *(b)* the six month offer, *(c)* support for unemployed professionals and executives and *(d)* the flexible New Deal since that scheme was introduced. [309338]

Jim Knight: Government have taken decisive action during the global recession to ensure that every individual has the help and support they need to get into work. Over £5 billion has been made available to put in place a substantial package of support to help job seekers back to work, with a particular focus on support for young people.

Our measures are working. Unemployment is much lower than in previous recessions, inactivity is below what it was in 1997 and there are 400,000 fewer people unemployed today than experts were predicting at Budget 2009.

The number and proportion of people who have found work through the day one offer, support for newly unemployed professionals and executives, the volunteering and work focused training elements of the Six Month Offer and the Flexible New Deal is not yet available.

On 14 October 2009, we released the first set of official statistics on the number of people taking up elements of the Six Month Offer. These early data covered the period from April 2009 to July 2009 and showed that 5,990 people had entered employment using the Recruitment Subsidy and 1,460 people had become self-employed and claimed the Self-Employment Credit. Furthermore, provisional data for August 2009 showed that a further 1,500 people had used the Recruitment Subsidy and 920 people had taken up the Self Employment Credit.

The next quarterly statistical release for the Six Month Offer will be published in January 2010. We also expect to publish the first official statistics on the Flexible New Deal in spring 2010.

Employment: Lone Parents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the lone parents who were moved from income support on to jobseeker's allowance as a result of changes to benefit rules in December 2008 are in employment; and if she will make a statement. [310510]

Helen Goodman: The information requested is not available.

Housing Benefit: Teenage Mothers

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many mothers under the age of 18 years old are in receipt of housing benefit. [310789]

Helen Goodman: The information is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Compensation

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many compensation payments Jobcentre Plus have made through their Special Payment Scheme in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* the Highlands and *(d)* Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey in each of the last three years; and how much was paid out in each area in each of those years. [307149][1]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many compensation payments Jobcentre Plus has made through their Special Payment Scheme in (a) the UK, (b) Scotland, (c) the Highlands and (d) Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey in each of the last three years; and how much was paid out in each area in each of those years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Jobcentre Plus Special Payments Scheme is part of a wider scheme operated by the Department for Work and Pensions. Details are contained in the Financial Redress for Maladministration Guide, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

(a) The number of compensation payments made across the UK and how much was paid out.

UK special payments

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Number of decisions	5,140	4,718	7,844
Amount paid (£)	1,778,600	1,958,100	2,858,300

(b) The number of compensation payments made across Scotland and how much was paid out.

Scotland special payments

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Number of decisions	361	386	538
Amount paid (£)	100,300	59,100	174,900

I am not in a position to provide a response to Questions (c) & (d). Details held on our database reflect the referring Benefit Delivery Centres and, in accordance with centralised processing, these offices cover large geographic areas beyond those specified in the question.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how long a single person claiming jobseeker's allowance could work at the national minimum wage adult rate before that person's earnings attracted a 100 per cent. withdrawal of jobseeker's allowance in each year of the national minimum wage's existence. [302541]

Jim Knight: The national minimum wage was introduced in April 1999 and is uprated each October.

For a single customer with no children and no disabilities there is a £5 disregard each week for part-time earnings in jobseeker's allowance. Earnings above the disregard lead to a pound for pound (100 per cent.) reduction in jobseeker's allowance.

People moving into work of more than 16 hours a week lose entitlement to JSA. However, the effect of the national minimum wage and, where paid, tax credits mean that the overwhelming majority are better off in work than on benefit.

The available information for a single customer with no children and no disabilities is given in the following table.

	Adult rate of national minimum wage (£ per hour)	*Minutes worked per week before 100 per cent. withdrawal rate*
1 April 1999	3.60	83
1 October 2000	3.70	81
1 October 2001	4.10	73
1 October 2002	4.20	71
1 October 2003	4.50	67
1 October 2004	4.85	62
1 October 2005	5.05	59
1 October 2006	5.35	56
1 October 2007	5.52	54
1 October 2008	5.73	52
1 October 2009	5.80	52

Jobseeker's Allowance: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to process a claim for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* income support was in Leeds in each of the last 10 years. [306930]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

1.*[Official Report, 1 March 2010, Vol. 506, c. 11MC.]*

New Deal Schemes: Young People

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of participants in the New Deal for Young People have left the benefits system without securing a job or receiving education or training in each of the last five years. [303031]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available in this exact format, as the reason for an individual leaving benefit is not always known. However the following table sets out the destinations, by percentage, of people who have left the new deal for young people, other than to benefits, in the last five years:

Percentage

	% Leavers to work	Other destination (including education or training) or destination unknown
2005	52.18	47.82
2006	49.85	50.15
2007	50.37	49.63
2008	47.86	52.14
2009	37.58	62.42

Notes:

1. Immediate destination is measured within two weeks of leaving new deal, using information from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
2. The year of leaving is the calendar year of leaving new deal.
3. Latest data for 2009 are to May.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Social Security Benefits

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will ensure that applications for health care costs grants sent mistakenly to Jobcentre Plus offices are forwarded immediately to the correct office for processing; and if she will make a statement. [309525]

Jim Knight: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking if she will ensure that applications for health care costs sent mistakenly to Jobcentre Plus Offices are forwarded immediately to the correct office for processing. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Claims for health care costs are the responsibility of the Department of Health. Claims are made on a form HC1 and include a prepaid envelope for its return. If a claim form is mistakenly sent to Jobcentre Plus it is automatically forwarded on to the Department of Health for action. If a customer presents a completed HC1 personally at a Jobcentre Plus office, they are advised where the form needs to be sent and if required will be given a duplicate prepaid envelope.

Social Security Benefits: Advisory Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much funding her Department has made available for providers on independent advice services on benefits in each year since 2004; and what steps she plans to take to ensure that disabled people have access to expert independent advice and assistance on all Government benefits and support. [307681]

Jim Knight: My Department do not fund independent advice services to offer advice to our customers. The Government, through the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, support the Citizens Advice service in England, Scotland and Wales.

Jobcentre Plus and PDCS have dedicated staff who deal with customers on all benefits and support. In particular disabled customers have the support of Disability Employment Advisers in Jobcentres. Additionally help is available via the internet from Directgov.

Social Security Benefits: Drugs Misuse

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate she has made of the number of people addicted to illegal drugs who are in receipt of benefits from her Department. [309853]

Helen Goodman: Information on the number of people addicted to illegal drugs and who are in receipt of benefits is not available.

Unemployment

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people living in *(a)* Herefordshire and *(b)* the UK receiving services from Jobcentre Plus were aged (i) under 21, (ii) 22 to 25, (iii) 26 to 30, (iv) 31 to 35, (v) 36 to 40, (vi) 41 to 45, (vii) 46 to 50, (viii) 51 to 55, (ix) 56 to 60 and (x) over 60 years old in each month since January 2005; and if she will make a statement. [307153]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available as figures are not kept on the number of people who access Jobcentre Plus through the various methods available, such as online, by telephone or at the Jobcentre.

Unemployment: Young People

Chloe Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people under 25 years old were not in employment, education or training in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* during 2008-09 in (i) Norwich North constituency and (ii) each region. [301698]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the precise format requested. The Labour Force Survey does not provide consistent information on participation in part time education and training prior to the year 2000. Information on participation in full time education is available on a consistent basis from 1992 onwards. The following table provides the number and proportion of 16 to 24-year-olds who are not in employment or full time education. This definition is consistent with table 14 of the Office of National Statistics (ONS) Labour Market Statistical Bulletin.

16 to 24-year-olds not in employment or full time education[1]

	1997		*2007*		*2008*		*2009*	
	Number (thousand)	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Number (thousand)*	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Number (thousand)*	*Proportion (percentage)*	*Number (thousand)*	*Proportion (percentage)*
North East	60	21.6	63	19.3	78	23.8	85	25.8
North West	149	20.7	177	20.7	185	21.4	209	24.3
Yorkshire and Humberside	110	20.4	126	18.7	140	20.6	145	21.8
East Midlands	70	15.9	95	17.7	97	17.8	106	19.8
West Midlands	117	20.7	146	22.5	149	22.8	154	23.5
East of England	80	15.1	108	17.7	104	16.8	108	17.3
London	174	20.7	180	20.0	183	20.0	199	20.4
South East	113	14.0	153	16.7	155	16.7	179	19.2
South West	70	14.5	81	14.0	91	15.6	99	17.3
Wales	60	19.8	77	21.2	71	19.4	80	21.9
Scotland	103	18.3	106	17.5	97	15.9	123	20.0
Northern Ireland	47	22.2	36	15.6	43	18.5	50	21.5
UK	1,155	18.4	1,348	18.6	1,392	19.0	1,536	20.9

[1] Latest available data are for July-September 2009, data are not seasonally adjusted so the table includes data for July-September in each year.

Source:

Labour Force Survey (individual datasets), National Statistics.

Data at parliamentary constituency area level are only available from the Annual Population Survey from 2004 onwards. The sample sizes for Norwich North constituency are not sufficient to provide reliable estimates.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Amusement Arcades: Coastal Areas

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment has been made of the regulatory burden on seaside amusement arcades; and what steps are being taken to reduce that burden. [310135]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department has not made a specific assessment of the regulatory burden on seaside amusement arcades. However, we have assessed the administrative burden imposed by the Gambling Act 2005 on the gambling industry as a whole to be £17.4 million per annum: £56.6 million less than the administrative costs imposed by the previous regime. The Government remain committed to reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens and will continue to work with the industry, including those representing the seaside arcade sector, to identify simplification measures.

Arts Council England

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much was spent by each *(a)* senior manager and *(b)* board member of Arts Council England in providing hospitality in each of the last three years; [310422]

(2) whether Arts Council England has purchased any flat screen televisions in each of the last five years; [310423]

(3) whether Arts Council England has investigated any thefts of its property in each of the last three years; [310442]

(4) for how many capital building projects Arts Council England has provided funding in the last 12 months; [310454]

(5) what role Arts Council England has in respect of the Government Art Collection; and if he will make a statement. [310456]

Margaret Hodge: The issues raised are the responsibility of Arts Council England. The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to write direct to my hon. Friend. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to whom the administration of Arts Council England is accountable for the operational exercise of the Council's functions; and if he will make a statement. [310449]

Margaret Hodge: The Chief Executive of Arts Council England is ultimately responsible for the operational exercise of the Arts Council's functions. As the accounting officer, he is responsible for safeguarding the public funds for which he has charge, for ensuring propriety and regularity in the handling of public funds and for the day-to-day operations and management of Arts Council England.

As principal accounting officer, the permanent secretary must be satisfied that the framework of internal controls applied by the Arts Council conforms to the requirements of regularity, propriety and good financial management.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse has been of each restructuring of Arts Council England in each year since 1994; and if he will make a statement. [301896]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 26 November 2009]*: Since 1994, Arts Council England restructuring has resulted in a total saving of £50,464,000 with further savings of £6,500,000 per annum from 2010-11 resulting from the current organisational review.

The table shows a breakdown of the cost of each restructure. These figures include the provisions made for the costs of staff redundancies and other direct costs associated with those proposals.

	Period of restructuring	*Total cost (£)*
Arts Council of Great Britain to Arts Council of England	1993-95	318,000
Restructuring of ACoEto4 Directorates	1998-99	1,435,000
Merging of 10 Regional Arts Boards to form Arts Council England	2001-05	8,376,000
Restructuring National Office	2005-06	1,859,000
Shared services review	2007-08	1,143,000
Organisation Review	2008-10	4,833,000

Arts Council England: Car Allowances

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will review the *(a)* appropriateness of the conditions for and *(b)* effectiveness of the operation of the car allowance scheme for Arts Council England staff. [310441]

Margaret Hodge: The operation of the car allowance scheme is a matter for Arts Council England.

Arts Council England: Finance

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 374W, on Arts Council England: reorganisation, what the breakdown is of the expected efficiency savings of £6.5 million annually from 2010-11. [307583]

Margaret Hodge: Arts Council England has supplied the following information, setting out the anticipated annual efficiency savings of £6.5 million.

	£ million
Central grants for the Arts processing centre	1.5
Changes to structure of regional offices	0.3
Smaller head office	1.4
Co-location of head office and London regional office	0.2
Smaller executive board	0.5
Streamlined Advocacy and Communications team	0.7
Non-pay costs: including property savings through mobile and home working, hot desking, video and teleconferencing	1.9
Total saving	6.5

Gambling Act 2005

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment his Department has made of the effects of the Gambling Act 2005 on the gambling industry. [310131]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ongoing assessment of various aspects of the Gambling Act 2005 has been undertaken since its introduction and through its continuing implementation. This has included an administrative burdens measurement exercise, conducted by my Department in 2008 and verified by an industry expert panel, which concluded that the administrative costs imposed by the Gambling Act 2005 were £56.6 million per annum less than those imposed by the old regime.

Gambling Commission

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps have been taken to reduce the size and cost of the Gambling Commission since the introduction of the Gambling Act 2005. [310132]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department's current funding agreement with Gambling Commission sets a target of achieving 3 per cent. value for money efficiency savings, year on year, over the period 2008-09 to 2010-11. In 2007-08 the Commission's total expenditure was £ 16.699 million. This fell to £15.291 million in 2008-09. The Commission had a maximum of 300 employees that figure has reduced to 221. While it is right that the Commission continues to drive efficiencies, I am sure that the hon. Member would agree that the Commission must have adequate resources to discharge its responsibilities effectively.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the effectiveness of the Gambling Commission. [310133]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have regular discussions with a wide range of stakeholders and partners including local government, trade associations, individual businesses and those concerned with problem gambling, as well as the Gambling Commission itself, about all aspects of gambling regulation, including the role of the Gambling Commission.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Executive and Chairman of the Gambling Commission on the effectiveness and costs of the commission; and if he will make a statement. [310134]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My most recent meeting with the chair and chief executive of the Gambling Commission was held on 18 November 2009 where we discussed a range of issues relating to gambling regulation, including Gambling Commission's costs and priorities.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what simplification measures have been introduced by the Gambling Commission since the Hampton Review; [310136]

(2) what steps have been taken by the Gambling Commission in response to the concerns raised by the Hampton Review on the commission's operations; and if he will make a statement. [310137]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Hampton Implementation Review of the Gambling Commission in 2009 suggested that, if the Commission's plans were implemented, it would be in a strong position to demonstrate the Hampton principles throughout its work.

The Commission's response to the review is available on their website. The implementation of those plans is a key programme in the Commission's current business plan and they are making good progress on these measures. I will ask the chief executive of the Gambling Commission to write to the hon. Member with further details of how it is responding to specific points raised in the Hampton Review. Copies of this letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Commission has undertaken a number of simplification measures and these, together with future plans, are set out in a Gambling Commission annex to my Department's 2009 Simplification Plan which can be found on the DCMS website here:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6520.aspx

Gambling Commission: Crime

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Gambling Commission on *(a)* quantifying the level and *(b)* assessing trends in illegal gambling in the UK. [310150]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have not had recent discussions with the Gambling Commission about the overall level and trends in illegal gambling in the UK. There are a number of activities that could be classed as illegal gambling and I have discussed some of the priority areas such as underage betting and sports betting integrity with the Commission.

Olympic Games 2012: Culture

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent in relation to the Cultural Olympiad in each parliamentary constituency. [310492]

Margaret Hodge: Pursuant to my answer of 5 January, *Official Report*, column 44W, many of the Cultural Olympiad initiatives, such as the London 2012 Open Weekends and the projects within the Inspire Mark Programme, are designed, delivered and financed by local organisations and such information is not held centrally.

However, the Cultural Olympiad is already providing opportunities for people across the country to celebrate their cultural life in the run up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Three Major National Projects of the Cultural Olympiad—Artists Taking the Lead; Stories of the World; and Unlimited—are now launched. There are over 144 cultural Inspire Mark projects (sourcing funds estimated at £19.8 million so far) taking place across the UK. During the two London 2012 Open Weekend celebrations in 2008 and 2009, there were over 1,400 events across all the regions of the UK. We hope that many communities will get behind 2012 projects to build momentum behind the Cultural Olympiad as we approach the Games.

Regional Design Panels

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department and its agencies have allocated to regional design panels since their inception. [308695]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and its agency do not directly allocate funding to regional design panels.

Royal Parks: Parking

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date he plans to make a statutory instrument introducing car parking charges in Royal Parks where charging is not currently in force; if he will hold a meeting with representatives of Royal Park users in Richmond Park before making such an instrument; and what estimate he has made of the sums likely to be raised from car parking charges in each Royal Park in the first 12 months after introduction of charging. [309639]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: I am considering a number of changes to park regulations, including introducing parking charges in Bushy and Richmond Parks. I intend to make a decision soon after considering all the evidence.

There has been extensive consultation about the proposals and representatives of Royal Parks' users have met senior officials from the Agency to discuss these issues. The hon. Member has also raised issues with me in person.

The most recent estimate is that parking charges in Richmond Park could deliver an income of around £345,000 net a year. Parking in Bushy could deliver £86,000 net, although this is expected to rise to over £100,000 when a car park, that is currently being located, is opened.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 672W, on Royal Parks: parking, what plans there are to introduce car parking charges in Royal Parks under such regulations. [309738]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: Parking charges are already in place in most Royal Parks. I am considering a number of changes to the park regulations, including introducing parking charges in Bushy and Richmond parks. A consultation exercise has been undertaken. I am considering the results of this and other evidence and I expect to make a decision shortly.

Swimming: Concessions

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many free swimming sessions have been provided per eligible resident by each local authority participating in the scheme in the latest period for which figures are available. [310468]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures for the number of free swims per 1,000 eligible residents within each local authority participating in the free swimming programme will be published as part, of the next release of data on 5 February 2010.

These figures will cover the period April 2009 to December 2009.

Tourism: Olympic Games 2010

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to *(a)* provide new funds and *(b)* direct existing funds into projects to increase tourism associated with the London 2012 Olympics. [310085]

Margaret Hodge: There are currently no plans to provide new funds specifically for tourism 2012 promotion in the present spending round to 2010-11.

In terms of existing funding, VisitBritain will shortly be publishing their marketing strategy for 2012 which will look at ways to integrate 2012 games messages into everyday work. In essence this means that every aspect of tourism work will feature the 2012 games.

Overall, in partnership with industry and the wider public sector, I am seeking to use the 2012 games to promote the wider messages and interests of destination Britain.

Tourism: Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to ring-fence funding allocated to regional development agencies for the promotion of the tourism industry. [310271]

Margaret Hodge: The regional development agencies (RDAs) budgets are set as part of the spending review process. In CSR 2007, the RDAs were given budgets over three years to help them prepare their corporate plans for this period.

Six Government Departments contribute towards the RDAs' single budget and the RDAs are then free to spend according to their regional priorities. This policy is consistent with the Government's determination to decentralise decision-making wherever possible. We do not ring-fence funding for specific purposes.

Tourism: Visas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with their counterparts in the Home Office on the effect on the tourism industry of the cost of visas. [310274]

Margaret Hodge: The Government strives to strike the right balance between maintaining the most secure and effective border controls in the world, and ensuring that the visa fees structure does not inhibit the UK's ability to attract those migrants and visitors that make a valued contribution. The Home Office reviews fees and charges annually to reflect changes to operating costs and to its strategic approach. Fees are set following a full discussion with departments, including DCMS.

As part of that process, my officials attend regular meetings of the cross-Whitehall Fees Committee, chaired by the Home Office, which last met in December. The Minister for identity at the Home Office and I also met in December to discuss the impact of visa processes on UK tourism. This followed our discussion at a meeting of the ministerial group on tourism in November. We will continue to work together to ensure a proper balance between effective border controls and a vibrant visitor economy.

Video Recordings Act 1984

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the monetary value was of fines imposed under the provisions of the Video Recordings Act 1984 in each year since that Act came into force. [310394]

Mr. Simon: The Ministry of Justice have provided the following information relating to the monetary value of fines imposed under the provisions of the Video Recordings Act 1984[1].

[1] Offences under: S.9.S.10, S.11, S.12, S.13, S.14 of the Video Recording Act 1984 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

	Value of fines imposed (£)
1995	29,695
1996	51,335
1997	35,165
1998	32,065
1999	53,755
2000	57,430
2001	55,610
2002	60,055
2003	40,345
2004	55,275
2005	22,544
2006	25,545
2007	19,960

Source:
Ministry of Justice

Data prior to 1995 is not held in a comparable format and could be supplied only at a disproportionate cost.

World Tourism Organisation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what role the UK plays in the UN World Tourism Organisation. [310123]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* The UK currently has no formal role in the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), but we continue to keep membership under review in relation to the delivery of our strategic priorities and objectives for tourism.

I attended the World Tourism Trade Market hosted by the UNWTO in November. My officials and I also have regular bilateral meetings with tourism representatives from other countries in order to support and promote tourism in the UK and abroad. Our engagement with world tourism is also facilitated by VisitBritain's membership of the European Travel Commission, World Travel and Tourism Council and Pacific and Asia Travel Association.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds for comparative purposes on historical levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. [310537]

Joan Ruddock: The Department uses data that are available from several sources, including the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, the World Data Centre for Greenhouse Gases and the World Resources Institute, to obtain information on long term historical levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. DECC also holds information on carbon dioxide levels measured at Mace Head in the Republic of Ireland since 1995.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309879]

Joan Ruddock: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Ministerial visits are made on the basis that they are provisional and subject to parliamentary and Government business.

It is not normal practice for Government to report on cancelled visits.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on *(a)* strategy and planning, *(b)* design and build, *(c)* hosting and infrastructure, *(d)* content provision and *(e)* testing and evaluation for his Department's websites in each of the last three years; and what budget has been allocated for such activities in 2009-10. [309909]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change was created on 3 October 2008, and its official corporate website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/

was launched on 23 February 2009. The Department's website did not exist in 2007-08.

The amount spent on the Department of Energy and Climate Change's website in the 2008-09 financial year was: £58,874.00. That figure breaks down as follows:

(a) Strategy and planning: external procurement and project management costs: £18,824

(b) Design and build: £30,403

(c) Hosting: £900

(d) Content provision: Staff costs: £8747

(e) Testing and evaluation: £0

The amount spent so far in 2009-10 for the Department's website:

www.decc.gov.uk

is £140,740.00.

That figure breaks down as follows:

(a) Strategy and Planning: (external procurement and project management costs) £53542

(b) Design and build: £10457

(c) Hosting: £4025

(d) Content provision (including migration from www.berr.gov.uk and www.defra.gov.uk): £72170

(e) Testing and evaluation: £546 accessibility fixes

The budget for

www.decc.gov.uk

for such activities in 2009-10 is £340,637.

It has not been possible to breakdown costs for other websites run by the Department; in these instances total figures for each site are shown.

£

	Financial year			Budget
Website	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2009-10*
http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/actonco2/home.html	0	126,800	100,500	185,000
https://www.energynpsconsultation.decc.gov.uk/	0	0	68,000	68,000
www.sedbuk.com	0	1,000	2,000	2,000
www.Hfccat-demo.org	0	1,000	2,000	2,000
http://chp.decc.gov.uk/cms/	0	26,000	7,500	7,500
http://www.Chpqa.com/	25,000	26,500	24,500	24,300
www.corwm.org.uk	26,000	34,000	4,590	30,000
www.rimnet.gov.uk	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
www.og.decc.gov.uk	12,500	12,500	8,300.00	8,300
https://www.og.decc.gov.uk/EIP/pages/help.htm	0	8,000	8,300.00	8,300
www.pilottaskforce.co.uk	12,500	12,500	8,300.00	8,300
www.ensg.gov.uk	936.00	9,040.00	6,078.00	6,078.00
www.planningrenewables.org.uk	22,105	66,212.75	7,500	7,500
www.renewables-advisory-board.org.uk	0	12,000	9,000	9,000
www.ukrenewables.com	0	3,000	3,000	3,000
www.avoid.uk.net	0	0	15,000	15,000
www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk/home	0	15,000	0	0
www.bigenergyshift.org.uk	0	0	61,000	61,000

	Financial year			£
Website	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Budget 2009-10*
www.decc.gov.uk/offsetting	18,000	10,000	6,000	6,000
www.actoncopenhagen.gov.uk	0	0	83,529	118,000

Electricity: Scotland

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much electricity was supplied by District network to *(a)* North Ayrshire and *(b)* the Isle of Arran in the last 12 month period for which figures are available. [309299]

Mr. Kidney: Statistics for electricity supplied by district are not held centrally. The relevant Distribution Network Operators (Scottish Power Distribution and Scottish and Southern Hydro-Electric Distribution) may be able to provide figures.

Employment Tribunals Service

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether an employment tribunal relating to his Department has been held since its inception. [309958]

Joan Ruddock: There have been no employment tribunals relating to DECC held since it's inception.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the percentage contribution of *(a)* carbon dioxide, *(b)* water vapour and *(c)* methane to the greenhouse gas effect. [310485]

Joan Ruddock: Scientific publications on the subject, for example, Kiehl and Trenberth (1997, Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society) report that carbon dioxide contributes around 27 per cent. to the globally averaged greenhouse gas effect, water vapour around 60 per cent., and methane about 3 per cent. The amount of water vapour present, and hence its contribution to the greenhouse gas effect, depends on the temperature of the atmosphere. It therefore acts to amplify the contribution of the other greenhouse gases.

Natural Gas: Imports

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much and what proportion of the UK's gas consumption was imported from each country as *(a)* liquid natural gas and *(b)* a gas in the latest period for which figures are available. [310101]

Mr. Kidney: The latest published figures for imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and pipeline gas by country are for 2008. The following tables show volumes of gas imported by country expressed as a proportion of gas put into the national transmission systems, i.e. available for consumption.

(a) Liquefied natural gas 2008

Imported from	*Volume (million cubic metres)*	*Percentage of imports put into the UK inland transmission systems*
Algeria	287	0.3
Trinidad and Tobago	535	0.6

(b) Pipeline natural gas 2008

Imported from	*Volume (million cubic metres)*	*Percentage of imports put into the UK inland transmission systems*
Belgium	1,127	1.2
Netherlands	8,440	9.0
Norway	25,528	27.2

More recent monthly figures for imports of LNG by country are not available because of commercial sensitivity issues. However, imports and exports of natural gas are published monthly in Energy Trends Table 4.3 on the DECC website at this address:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/media/viewfile.ashx?filepath=statistics/source/gas/et4_3.xls&filetype=4

In volume terms these figures show the following:

Imports of natural gas in the 10 months to October 2009

Imported from	*Volume (million cubic metres)*	*Percentage of imports put into the UK inland transmission systems*
Liquefied natural gas (various sources)	7,067	10.4
Belgium	140	0.2
Netherlands	4,562	6.7
Norway	18,700	27.6

Nuclear Power

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to expand the capacity for nuclear power generation in the UK. [310503]

Mr. Kidney *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* This Government are committed to addressing global climate change and securing the UK's energy supply and has determined that new nuclear has a role to play in the UK's future energy mix. Government's policy is that it is in the public interest to allow energy companies to fund, develop and build new nuclear power stations and that Government will take active steps to make the conditions right for investment and enable new nuclear to come on line as soon as possible.. These actions are set out in the Nuclear White Paper ('A White Paper on Nuclear Power', pp134, section 3.4-3.6) and the current status is at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we do/uk_supply/energy_mix/nuclear/new/develop_forum/develop_forum.aspx

Nuclear Power Stations: Public Consultation

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people attended the public discussion meeting on the proposed nuclear power station at *(a)* Hartlepool, *(b)* Heysham, *(c)* Sizewell and *(d)* Bradwell which was held as part of the consultation on the draft nuclear national policy statement. [310315]

Mr. Kidney: Below are the attendance figures for the public discussion meetings relating to consultation on the draft nuclear national policy statement at the aforementioned sites.

(a) Hartlepool: 34 people

(b) Heysham: 72 people

(c) Sizewell: 64 people

(d) Bradwell:

(i) West Mersea: 52 people

(ii) Maldon: 28 people.

Power Stations: Carbon Emissions

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* carbon dioxide emissions per megawatt hour for the life-cycle of the proposed new (i) coal, (ii) gas, (iii) oil, (iv) hydroelectric, (v) nuclear, (vi) wind and (vii) tidal power generating facilities. [310069]

Joan Ruddock: Any estimates of total life cycle emissions of power stations necessarily contain a high degree of uncertainty and outcomes will depend strongly on market factors such as energy prices, electricity demand profiles and plant life times. With the exception of nuclear power the department has not produced any of the requested estimates. With respect to per unit life cycle emissions, the 2008 White Paper on nuclear power estimated that the life-cycle emissions from nuclear power were in the range of 7-22gCO2/kWh of electricity generated. The white paper references two papers which have produced estimates of life cycle emissions per kWh. Nuclear Energy and the Kyoto Protocol (2002) OECD Nuclear Energy Agency; Assessing the difference: Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Electricity Generation Chains (2000) IAEA Bulletin. We summarise the information provided by these papers as follows for other technologies and our estimates for nuclear.

Neither the Department nor the referenced studies have produced estimates for tidal power generation.

Technology	*g CO_2/kWh*
Coal	755
Gas	385
Oil	545
Hydroelectric	4-23
Nuclear	7-22
Wind (UK)	9

TREASURY

Budget

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors are taken into account in deciding on the date of the annual Budget statement; and if he will make a statement. [310087]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Code of Fiscal Stability requires there to be a Budget each financial year. It also requires there to be three months between a pre-Budget report statement and the Budget. The Chancellor decides the date of the Budget taking into account factors such as the parliamentary timetable and economic factors.

Car Allowances: NHS

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions his Department has had with the Department of Health on the effect of approved mileage allowance payment rates on the number of voluntary NHS drivers; [309694]

(2) what account is taken of *(a)* fuel and *(b)* other transport costs in setting approved mileage allowance payment rates; [309696]

(3) if he will hold a public consultation on rates for the approved mileage allowance payment scheme; [309697]

(4) if he will consider the merits of providing higher approved mileage allowance payment rates for drivers working for the voluntary sector. [309757]

Mr. Timms: The Government consider the Approved Mileage Allowance Payment (AMAP) rates to be a fair reflection of the costs of business motoring for the vast majority of drivers.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) conducted a review of the interaction between Approved Mileage Allowance Payments (AMAPs) and Employee Car Ownership Schemes during 2007. The resulting report was published alongside the 2008 pre-Budget report and is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2008/comp-car-tax-805.pdf

As part of this review, the Department canvassed the views of over 30 other Government Departments. However, the review did not cover the impact of approved mileage allowance payment rates on voluntary drivers because these rates are primarily for employees.

HMRC accept that volunteer drivers who use their own cars and are reimbursed at or below the AMAPs rates do not make a taxable profit. Alternatively, volunteer drivers can be reimbursed the full cost of motoring provided they are able to demonstrate what those costs were. Fuel is one of the factors taken into account in setting AMAP rates, as are other costs of running a private car.

All taxes are kept under review with any decisions, including public consultations, announced by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process.

Cheques

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the potential effects of phasing out cheques by the end of 2018 on *(a)* levels of recorded income of small businesses and *(b)* levels of tax revenues from that income; and if he will make a statement. [310479]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The closure of Cheque and Credit Clearing is a commercial decision and one that the Payments Council, an independent body that sets the strategy for UK payment systems, will take. The Government, however, recognise that certain groups still value cheques as a significant method of payment.

Government believe it is imperative that adequate alternatives be in place for all users of cheques, including small businesses, the elderly and the Third Sector, ahead of any potential closure of the cheque clearing system.

As part of ongoing dialogue with stakeholders, the Council will seek to undertake further analysis with regards to the effects of closing the cheque system on all users.

Excise Duties

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue has been generated by duty on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* tobacco in each of the last 10 years. [310063]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Historical alcohol duty revenue figures can be found in Table 2 of any of HM Revenue and Customs Alcohol Bulletins, copies of which can be found at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulletins&hasFlashPlayer=true

The latest available annual data relate to 2008-09.

Historical tobacco duty revenue figures can be found in Table 3 of the HM Revenue and Customs Tobacco Bulletin, a copy of which can be found at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulltobacco

The latest available annual data relate to 2008-09.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much accrued to the Exchequer in excise duty on spirit-based ready-to-drink alcoholic drinks in each of the last five years; [310352]

(2) how much accrued to the Exchequer from excise duty on *(a)* beer, *(b)* cider, *(c)* wine and *(d)* spirits in each of the last five years; [310353]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect on alcohol consumption of changes in the level of alcohol duty in the last three years. [310354]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Total excise duty receipts by type of alcohols products (beer, cider, wine and spirits) can be found in the HM Revenue and Customs 'Beer and Cider Bulletin', 'Wine of Fresh Grapes or Made Wine Bulletin' and 'Spirits Bulletin', which are available from the HM Revenue and Customs website addresses at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullbeer

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullfresh

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullmadewine

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullspirits

Separate figures for spirit-based ready-to-drink products are available in terms of quantities only and not in terms of duty receipts.

Alcohol consumption is affected by the economic climate, by trends in consumer tastes and by changes in price, both from duty rates and from changes to input costs. Consumption also varies significantly at different times of the year.

Holiday Accommodation

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent research his Department has undertaken on the geographical distribution of self-catering properties relative to the nearest hotel, guesthouse and bed and breakfast accommodation; [310263]

(2) whether his Department undertook research on the respective facilities offered by self-catering properties and bed and breakfast accommodation in remote and rural areas prior to the publication of the draft technical note, Withdrawing the Furnished Holiday Lettings Rules from 2010-11. [310264]

Mr. Timms: The technical note entitled 'Withdrawing the Furnished Holiday Lettings Rules from 2010-11', and the 'Impact Assessment of Withdrawing the Furnished Holiday Lettings Rules' were prepared on the basis of representations received and meetings held with interested parties, together with information contained within tax returns and other publicly available information. The Government welcome comments on these documents.

Taxation: Holiday Accommodation

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment HM Revenue and Customs has made of the effects on city-centre executive serviced apartments operated by multinational hotel companies of the proposed abolition of furnished holiday lettings relief; and what discussions his Department has held with such companies on their future tax liability. [310130]

Mr. Timms: An impact assessment for the repeal of the furnished holiday lettings (FHL) rules was published alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report, together with draft legislation. The Government welcome comment on these documents.

After 1 April 2010, businesses providing accommodation which would previously have qualified under the FHL rules, which could include serviced apartments, will need to consider whether the business is a trade or a property business. This will depend on the facts of the particular business. HM Revenue and Customs guidance published alongside the 2009 pre-Budget report, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/withdrawing-lettings-rules-3760.pdf

explains the factors businesses need to take into account.

Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1383W, on taxation: holiday accommodation, if he will place in the Library a copy of each citation in case law referred to. [310265]

Mr. Timms: There are a number of tax cases in which the courts have considered what constitutes a trade. Two cases that consider whether the provision of furnished accommodation amounts to a trade are Griffiths *v.* Jackson (56 TC 583), which contains an analysis of the case law on the difference between trade and property income, and Gittos *v.* Barclay (55 TC 633), which specifically looked at whether or not a furnished holiday letting business was a trade. The Library holds a copy of both these cases.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1382W, on taxation: holiday accommodation, what representations his Department received on the abolition of furnished holiday lettings relief between 20 October and 16 December 2009. [310266]

Mr. Timms: The Treasury receives representations on a range of issues. As was the case with the previous Administration, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many properties in receipt of furnished holiday lettings tax relief were awarded farm diversification grants in the last 12 months; [310267]

(2) for how many properties for expedited sale furnished holiday lettings tax relief has been awarded. [310268]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available, as HM Revenue and Customs' (HMRC) do not hold information on the recipients of farm diversification grants; these are administered by Regional Development Agencies.

An impact assessment on the repeal of the furnished holiday lettings (FHL) rules was published alongside the 2009 Pre-Budget Report, and is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2009/furnished-holiday-ia-3760.pdf

Taxation: Property

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the rules on the election of a property as a primary residence on individuals for the purpose of determining future tax liability to ensure that such liabilities are met. [310411]

Mr. Timms: Tax policy changes are considered through the Budget process in the usual way. The Government consider a range of factors when formulating tax policy and keep all aspects of the tax system under review.

Welfare Tax Credits

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the largest sum of tax credits paid retrospectively to an individual or couple was *(a)* in 2009, *(b)* in 2008 and *(c)* since tax credits were introduced; [308105]

(2) what the *(a)* average and *(b)* highest number of tax credits cheques sent to a unique claimant was in the course of (i) one year and (ii) one month in (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09. [308195]

Mr. Timms: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost, given the work needed to extract this from the tax credits computer system.

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many contacts were made on average by *(a)* all claimants and *(b)* citizens of A8 and A2 countries to the Tax Credits Office in applying for tax credit in cases where the application was subsequently withdrawn in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07, (iii) 2007-08 and (iv) 2008-09; [309787]

(2) what record his Department holds of the *(a)* largest and *(b)* average number of contacts made by applicants for tax credit to the Tax Credits Office in (i) the last 12 months and (ii) January (A) 2005-06, (B) 2006-07, (C) 2007-08 and (D) 2008-09. [309788]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, as HM Revenue and Customs would need to interrogate individual claimants' records manually to establish this.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business: Cybercrime

Tom Levitt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the level of risk to businesses posed by malevolent software; and what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* mitigate such risks and *(b)* tackle the use of malevolent software. [309680]

Mr. Timms: The Department has conducted a series of surveys of business to gauge the impact of IT security breaches and the response to security challenges such as the increase in malicious software. There is no doubt that such software is a serious threat to business and domestic users, and practical advice on protecting systems against it features in our work with GetSafeOnLine

http://www.getsafeonline.org/

aimed at informing the public and smaller businesses; our work with business through the Digital Systems Knowledge Transfer Network; and our work with the management of the Critical National Infrastructure. The pursuit of those who develop and use such software is a matter for the law enforcement authorities.

Departmental Accountants

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department takes to prevent conflicts of interest arising in the activities of accountants appointed by his Department in relation to companies entering into administration. [310295]

Ian Lucas: The Department does not appoint accountants in relation to companies entering into administration. Administrators are appointed by court order; the holder of a qualifying charge; the company or its directors.

Only insolvency practitioners can act as administrators and they are required to comply with an ethical code which was revised on 1 January 2009. This provides that they should take reasonable steps to identify circumstances that could pose a conflict of interest and have regard to the safeguards that may be applied to reduce these to an acceptable level. It applies to any professional work that may lead to an insolvency appointment, in addition to work undertaken as a result of a formal insolvency appointment.

The insolvency regulators, including my noble Friend the Secretary of State, will consider any potential breaches of the ethical code and take any necessary disciplinary action.

Educational Psychologists: Training

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what representations he has received on the funding of trainee educational psychologists in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [306994]

Mr. Lammy: I have received no representations on this subject.

Partnerships: Company Accounts

John Penrose: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department first provided notification of its decision to include e-filing options for limited liability partnerships in the WebFiling service at Companies House. [310066]

Ian Lucas: Companies House first set out Electronic Filing for Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) as a development objective in its 2009-10 Business Plan. This was published in April 2009 and is available on their website

www.companieshouse.gov.uk/about/pdf/businessPlan2009-10.pdf

The current project aims to allow e-filing by LLPs via the WebFiling service on the Companies House website as well as via the Software Filing service that allows submissions to be made direct from third party software. It aims to make initial e-filing options for LLPs available from spring 2010.

Unemployment: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of 16 to 19 year olds in Leeds West constituency were *(a)* in education, training or employment and *(b)* registered as unemployed in each year since 1992. [306597]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the number of 16 to 19-year-olds participating in education, employment or training are not available at parliamentary constituency level. The Department for Children, Schools and Families publishes annual estimates of the proportion of 16 to 17-year-olds participating in education and training in each local authority. These estimates are available via this link under "additional information":

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000849/index.shtml

An alternative source of data is the Connexions Client Caseload Information System (CCIS). This records the main activity of 16 to 18-year-olds known to Connexions.

Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds known to Leeds Connexions estimated to be in education, training or employment

	Percentage
2006[1]	75.0
2007[2]	81.3
2008[2]	82.8

[1] 2006 estimate excludes young people in part-time employment

[2] 2007 and 2008 estimates include young people in part-time employment

Claimant count data are available via the Office for National Statistics Nomis website:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/.

The following table shows the average number of young people aged 16-19 claiming jobseeker's allowance and thereby registered unemployed in the Leeds, West constituency in each year from 1996, the first year available, to 2008. Because population estimates for 16 to 19-year-olds are not routinely available by parliamentary constituency, it is not possible to express these figures as percentages.

Average 16 to 19-year-old claimant count in Leeds West by year

	Average claimant count
1996	275
1997	255
1998	250
1999	215
2000	210
2001	205
2002	195
2003	210
2004	215
2005	235
2006	245
2007	225
2008	240

It should be noted that 16 and 17-year-olds do not have routine access to job seeker's allowance except in cases of severe hardship.

Vocational Training: Young People

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of people aged 16 to 24 years have not been in education, employment or training for *(a)* more than six months, *(b)* between six months and one year, *(c)* between one and two years and *(d)* more than two years. [307768]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply

The information requested is not available for 16 to 24-year-olds. Analysis of the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE) and the Youth Cohort Study (YCS) shows that in the two years following completion of compulsory education, 4 per cent. of young people spent between one and three months not in education, employment or training (NEEfT); 9 per cent. spent between four and 12 months NEET; and 4 per cent. spent over 12 months NEET. These estimates are disaggregated by characteristics such as ethnic group, sex and parental occupation in the Statistical Bulletin "Youth Cohort Study and Longitudinal Study of Young People in England: The Activities and Experiences of 17-year-olds: England 2008":

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000850/index.shtml.

Young People: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of 16 to 19 year olds resident in Milton Keynes were *(a)* in education, training or employment and *(b)* registered as unemployed in each year since 1997. [308090]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the number of 16 to 19-year-olds participating in education, employment or training are not available at parliamentary constituency level. The Department for Children, Schools and Families publishes annual estimates of the proportion of 16 to 17-year-olds participating in education and training in each local authority. These estimates are available via this link under "additional information":

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000849/index.shtml

An alternative source of data is the Connexions Client Caseload Information System (CCIS). This records the main activity of 16 to 18-year-olds known to Connexions.

Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds known to Milton Keynes Connexions estimated to be in education, training or employment

	Percentage
2006[1]	79.5
2007[2]	90.6
2008[2]	90.8

[1] 2006 estimate excludes young people in part-time employment.

[2] 2007 and 2008 estimates include young people in part-time employment

Claimant count data are available via the Office for National Statistics Nomis website:

https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/

The following table shows the average number of young people aged 16-19 claiming jobseekers allowance and thereby registered unemployed in the North East Milton Keynes constituency in each year from 1997 to 2008. Because population estimates for 16 to 19-year-olds are not routinely available by parliamentary constituency, it is not possible to express these figures as percentages.

Average 16 to 19-year-old claimant count in North East Milton Keynes by year

	Average claimant count
1997	150
1998	115
1999	100
2000	75
2001	70
2002	65
2003	95
2004	95
2005	105
2006	125
2007	130
2008	135

It should be noted that 16 and 17-year-olds do not have routine access to jobseeker's allowance except in cases of severe hardship.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

11 MILLION

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people are employed in 11 Million; what the salary is for each post at that organisation; and what posts at that organisation are vacant. [309188]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: These are matters for 11 MILLION (formerly the Office of the Children's Commissioner). Sue Berelowitz Deputy Children's Commissioner at 11 MILLION, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of her reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Academies: Lincolnshire

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding for academies in North East Lincolnshire has been provided by *(a)* Government and *(b)* sponsors since the inception of the academy scheme. [309768]

Mr. Coaker: The funding provided to date by the Government and the payments made by sponsors for academies in north-east Lincolnshire is set out in the following table. All three academies opened in September 2007.

£

	Oasis Academy Immingham	*Oasis Academy Wintringham*	*Havelock Academy*
Government funding			
Development/set-up costs	1,653,974	1,530,199	1,102,472
Revenue running costs	13,608,329	13,960,785	14,432,332
Capital costs	26,322,207	24,391,147	[1]278,570
Sponsor payments	0	0	500,000

[1] For minor work on existing buildings—work on new buildings has not yet started

Children's Centres: Closures

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* children's and *(b)* Sure Start centres have closed in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [303725]

Dawn Primarolo: Sure Start Children's Centres were introduced from 2003-04—all former Sure Start Local Programmes are now Sure Start Children's Centres.

No Sure Start Children's Centres were closed between 2005-06 and 2008-09. In 2009-10, two Sure Start Children's Centre buildings were closed. In both cases the services originally offered are being provided by neighbouring centres.

Children's Centres: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many Sure Start centres there are in Nottingham North constituency; and how many children they assist. [308295]

Dawn Primarolo: There are a total of seven designated Sure Start Children's Centres in Nottingham North constituency, with a reach area of over 6,000 under fives and their families. Reach area defines those children and families with the opportunity to access Sure Start Children's Centres. Figures for the number of people actually using children's centres are not collected centrally.

Departmental Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding has been allocated for *(a)* editorial resources for and *(b)* enhancing and developing the Sure Start website in 2009-10 and 2010-11. [305339]

Dawn Primarolo: The Sure Start website was closed as part of the Cabinet Office web rationalisation programme. The content of the Sure Start, Local Authorities and Evety Child Matters (ECM) websites have been converged and these sites replaced with the current ECM website, which launched in May 2009. The Department allocated £341,288 for editorial resources and £274,117 for enhancing and developing the ECM website in the 2009-2010 financial year. Funding to cover the editorial resourcing and enhancement and development of ECM for the 2010-11 financial year has yet to be allocated.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses for its staff in 2009-10. [307021]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The pay bill for 2009-10 is estimated at £133 million, of which non-consolidated performance payments payable at end year represents £2.5 million. There are no in-year non-consolidated payments.

All employees are eligible for non-consolidated performance payments, subject to strict criteria in line with the Government's policy on public sector pay. Senior civil service non-consolidated payments are determined as part of a central performance management framework managed by the Cabinet Office. Payments for other grades are subject to the pay remit process and reflect previous pay settlements. Non-consolidated performance payments have to re-earn each year and do not add to future pay bill costs (e.g. pensions) and are an integral element of the reward package for staff.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Barnsley

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students in post-16 education in Barnsley East and Mexborough constituency have been in receipt of education maintenance allowance in each year since its introduction. [307160]

Mr. Iain Wright: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Geoffrey Russell, the LSC's acting chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Free School Meals: Stoke on Trent

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will assess the merits of making Stoke-on-Trent city council the West Midlands' pilot authority for universal free school meals. [310259]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: As part of the pre-budget report, the Chancellor has announced an extension to the universal free school meal pilots for primary children so that there is a pilot in each English region. No decisions have been taken yet as to which local authority areas will be selected.

Further Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding he plans to allocate to university technical colleges for 14 to 19 year olds, as referred to in paragraph 27 of his Department's paper Skills for Growth in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011 and *(c)* 2012; and how many such colleges he plans to establish in each such year. [304836]

Mr. Iain Wright: University technical colleges are funded through the Academies programme. We currently have two projects in feasibility and the funding requirement for each project is currently being assessed. The number of future university technical colleges will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Languages: Education

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many secondary schools in England provided tuition in (1) Arabic in each year since 2007; [310093]

(2) Mandarin in each of the last three years. [310094]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We do not have exact numbers of secondary schools offering tuition in Arabic and Mandarin. However, figures for the proportions of secondary schools offering tuition in Arabic and Mandarin in 2007 and 2008, based on a survey of a representative sample of schools, are in the following table. Research for 2009 will be published later this month by CILT, the National Centre for Languages.

	Arabic	*Percentage* *Mandarin*
2008	5	14
2007	3	9

Leeds

John Battle: [illegible] ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much capital expenditure his Department has incurred in the Leeds city area in the last three years. [306942]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Support for capital investment in schools in Leeds City is shown in the following table

	£ million
2007-08	77.40
2008-09	32.60
2009-10	51.50

The allocation in 2007-08 included £42.2 million in respect of Building Schools for the Future, and the allocation in 2009-10 includes £11.0 million advanced from 2010-11.

(b) Support for capital investment on Sure Start Early Years and Childcare in Leeds City is shown in the following table.

	£ million
2007-08	8.36
2008-09	7.36
2009-10	4.86

(c) Support for capital investment from Young Person's funding covers a number of different projects and programmes. Leeds City area has received the following from the Youth Capital Fund:

	Youth Capital Fund (£ million)
2007-08	0.4289
2008-09	0.4289
2009-10	0.4289

With regard to MY Place capital spending Leeds has one project for which funding was awarded in November 2008 was £4.979 million. Leeds city council is the lead partner.

Personal Social and Health Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what role school governors would have in determining the personal, social, health and economic education curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4 under the provisions proposed in the Children, Schools and Families Bill. [309712]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The role of school governors' will be crucial to the success of statutory PSHE as they will take a lead in setting the tone for good PSHE, including SRE and drugs education through the development of clear policies in consultation with teachers, pupils and parents.

In addition the legislation will introduce a set of guiding principles that govern the way in which the PSHE as a subject should be delivered in secondary schools. Schools governors will be under a duty to ensure these principles act as safeguards against inappropriate teaching.

It will also be a requirement for the governing body to have regard to any guidance that may be issued by the Secretary of State.

Pre-school Education: Closures

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained nurseries have closed in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [303729]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table provides details of the 32 local authority maintained nursery school closures that have been implemented since 2005 along with the reason for closure.

Reason for maintenance	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
Cease to maintain	2	—	1	—	—	3
Close for brand new nursery	1	—	—	5		6
Close for brand new primary	1	2	—	1	—	4
Close for brand new Children's Centre		—	—		5	5
Close for 'Add nursery unit'	4	3	1	2	4	14
Total	8	5	2	8	9	32

This shows that in three (cease to maintain) of the cases the nursery provision was not replaced with planned alternative provision. In all the other cases the closures were effectively technical and each was replaced with alternative nursery provision of some type.

The reasons the department has been given for the three closures were:

(a) Staffordshire 2005: Two nursery schools ceased to be maintained due to numbers on roll having declined rapidly as birth rates fell and the range of other local provision, much of it incorporating childcare, developed.

(b) Manchester 2007: The Nursery school had a capacity for 65 full-time equivalent places, but only 19 pupils on roll, so was no longer viable; there was sufficient alternative provision available elsewhere.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much funding has been allocated for the purposes of extending the free early learning entitlement to two year olds from the most deprived households in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [305270]

(2) what funding his Department has allocated to the extension of the free entitlement to early education to two year olds who do not have such an entitlement at present in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [305278]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 8 December 2009]*: Funding allocated to support the Free Early Learning and Childcare offer to the most disadvantaged two-year-olds is as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	20
2009-10	61
2010-11	76

Decisions regarding future funding settlements will be taken as part of the next spending review.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many two year olds are receiving the free entitlement to early education; and what plans he has to increase the number of two year olds in receipt of the free entitlement to early education in each of the next three financial years. [305277]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 8 December 2009]*: Over 20,000 two-year-olds already have access to free places and we will continue to make progress on the long-term ambition to provide free part-time nursery places for all two-year-olds whose parents want them. The reforms the Government are making to tax relief for Childcare Vouchers will allow us to go further. Two-year-old places will continue to be rolled out stage-by-stage in each of the next three financial years.

Schools: Radcliffe

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes of 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 827, on Radcliffe school, whether the decision on Academy status for the Radcliffe school is the responsibility of Milton Keynes council; what involvement he has in such decisions; and if he will make a statement. [303970]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 3 December 2009]*: Academies are always jointly commissioned with the relevant local authority and with its support. Once agreement has been reached the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families is responsible for approving the decision to transform a school into an academy, allowing the project to progress to the next stage of the development process.

Social Work Taskforce

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates his Department received drafts of the Social Work Task Force's final report before it was finalised. [308102]

Dawn Primarolo: The Social Work Task Force was an expert group, jointly appointed by the Secretaries of State for Health and for Children, Schools and Families, to advise the Government on social wok reform. Officials from the Joint Social Work Unit (established by the two Departments to support the Task Force) worked with the chair and members of the task force on successive drafts of the final report from 13 October onwards. Ministers in both Departments were provided with a draft of the executive summary of the final report on 20 November. Ministers were also provided with a near-final version of the full report on 27 November in preparation for launch and publication on 1 December.

Vale of Berkeley College

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what documenfation was made available to Graham Badman on Gloucestershire county council's proposals on Vale of Berkeley College for his evaluation of National Challenge Schools in Gloucestershire. [310390]

Mr. Coaker: DCSF officials gave Graham Badman the minutes from previous local national challenge board meetings. Vale of Berkeley college was discussed at these meetings. Graham Badman also had written information directly from Gloucestershire county council.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has agreed to the request of Gloucestershire county council to extend the period of consultation on its proposed closure of Vale of Berkeley College. [310391]

Mr. Coaker: I can confirm that the Department has not received a request from Gloucestershire county council to extend the period of consultation on its proposed closure of the Vale of Berkeley college. The statutory process for the proposed closure of a school is a matter for the local authority. A five stage statutory process must be followed for school closures, with each stage informing the next.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions took place between his Department and Gloucestershire county council on the format of the council's consultation on the proposed closure of Vale of Berkeley college. [310392]

Mr. Coaker: I can confirm that no discussions took place between the Department and Gloucestershire county council on the format of the council's consultation which proposes to close the Vale of Berkeley college. School closure is, and remains, a matter for a local authority. A five stage statutory process must be followed for school closures, with each stage informing the next.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department was first informed of Gloucestershire county council's proposals with regard to Vale of Berkeley college. [310393]

Mr. Coaker: Gloucestershire county council submitted its draft implementation plan in response to Graham Badman's review of national challenge progress in Gloucestershire on the 11 November 2009. The plan stated that Gloucestershire county council accepted Graham Badman's recommendation to close Vale of Berkeley college from September 2010, subject to statutory proposals and consultation.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 14 January 2010

WALES

Bilateral Meetings

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what bilateral meetings he has had with each of his Cabinet colleagues in the last 12 months. [310704]

Mr. Hain: In the course of my duties I have frequent meetings and discussions with Cabinet colleagues.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House how many citizen juries or summits have been hosted by her Office since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [310777]

Barbara Keeley: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons has hosted no citizen juries or summits since October 2008.

Departmental Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* citizens' juries and *(b)* summits have been hosted by her Office since June 2007; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [310236]

Barbara Keeley: Since 2007, the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons hosted one citizens' jury. A deliberative forum was held on the draft legislative programme which the Leader of the House of Commons attended on 20 October 2007.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

14 Tothill Street

Michael Fabricant: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what *(a)* buildings and *(b)* rooms on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate are vacant; for how many months the offices at 14 Tothill Street have been vacant; and what the cost of (i) rent and (ii) utilities on the offices at 14 Tothill Street has been in that period. [309859]

Nick Harvey: There are no *(a)* vacant buildings on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate. The number of *(b)* vacant rooms fluctuates constantly as requirements change or maintenance work is carried out. At present there are 13 unoccupied offices on the estate with a total area of 216m^2. Seven of these offices are vacant to enable major roof works to take place in the area known as the "Yellow Submarine" north of Speaker's Court. There are 2,100m^2 of open plan offices leased in No 4 Millbank for use as decant space. Of this, 500m^2 is currently vacant, awaiting fit-out.

There are also 2,800m^2 of vacant, open plan space which is the House of Commons' area of No 14 Tothill Street, and this space has been empty since the building was leased in October 2007. This area will be fitted out and available for use by the Department of Resources in autumn 2010. The Commons share of (i) the total rent paid to date, including the current quarter to 25 March 2010, amounts to some £4.8 million (including VAT); and the Commons share of (ii) utility costs paid to November 2010 has been some £33,000 (including VAT).

NORTHERN IRELAND

Chief Information Officer

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what pay band his Department's chief information officer (CIO) is employed; whether the CIO is employed on a fixed-term or permanent contract; and what the size is of the budget for which the CIO is responsible in the period 2009-10. [307560]

Mr. Woodward: The post of director of communications within the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) is located in senior civil service payband 2 and the current postholder is on a permanent SCS contract.

The 2009-10 budget for NIO Information Services Division is £2.1 million.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what powers his Department has to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much his Department has recovered in administrative penalties in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [309266]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has no powers to impose administrative penalties.

Wind Power

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) who *(a)* drafted, *(b)* checked and *(c)* approved his Department's press release on the granting of round 3 offshore wind rights, distributed on 7 January 2010; and whether special advisers contributed to the (i) drafting and (ii) approval of that document; [310820]

(2) to which special advisers his Department e-mailed its press release on the granting of round 3 offshore wind rights on 7 January 2010; [310821]

(3) for what reasons his Department's press release on the granting of round 3 offshore wind rights was issued before the expiry of the embargo on the press release issued by the Crown Estate on that matter; [310822]

(4) whether his Department's press release on the granting of round 3 offshore wind rights was sent to the Crown Estate before it was issued. [310823]

Ann McKechin: The press release was drafted, checked and approved by Scotland Office press office staff using information provided by the Department for Energy and Climate Change. Scotland Office press releases are drafted to include the relevant policy advice from officials and the relevant Government Department(s) and advice from special advisers where appropriate.

The release also referred to £3 million of grants to further support the offshore wind supply chain, including £1.5 million to Burntisland Fabrications Ltd. (BiFab) in Fife, from the Department for Energy and Climate Change and the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills.

The announcement that a licence was to be awarded by the Crown Estate to SeaEnergy Renewables and EDP Renovaveis in the Moray Firth was already in the public domain on the morning of 7 January 2010 having been carried in *The Press and Journal*. The Scotland Office press office was not made aware of any subsequent embargo.

A link to *The Press and Journal* article can be found here:

www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/1551358.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311264]

Mr. Simon: 96.65 per cent.

Departmental Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the quantity of food waste generated by his Department in each year for which figures are available. [310818]

Mr. Simon: This information is not available.

Departmental Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310531]

Mr. Simon: The Department rents 13,121 sq m of office space.

9,425 sq m is occupied by the Department

3,537 sq m is sublet to tenants

159 sq m is vacant

As the space is not owned by the Department, valuations are not carried out.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has allocated for *(a)* year end and *(b)* in-year bonuses for staff in 2009-10. [300457]

Mr. Simon: An element of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The wages/salary budget for 2009-10 is £25,327,000, of which non-consolidated performance payments represents an estimated 2.4 per cent.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has paid to public relations companies in each of the last five years; and for what purpose in each case. [309805]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* The costs of the Department's contracts with public relations consultancies in each of the last five years are as follows:

	PR consultancy	*Spend (£)*
2004-05	Harrison Cowley	117,500.05
2005-06	Harrison Cowley	295,148.25
2006-07	Harrison Cowley	84,600
2007-08	n/a	0
2008-09	Edelman	186,495

These companies provided communications support on Digital Switchover, the implementation of the Licensing Act and C&binet.

Departmental Sick Leave

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many working days were lost due to illness of employees within his Department in each of the last three years; and how many of these were attributed to stress in each year. [310231]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 7 January 2010]:* The table shows:

a. The number of working days lost due to illness within the Department for Culture Media and Sport in each of the last three years.

b. The number of days attributed to stress in each year.

	Working days lost	*Days attributed to stress*
2006-07	2,873	373
2007-08	2,085	96
2008-09	1,944	20

Departmental Training

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many sessions of media training were organised for Ministers in his Department in each of the last three years. [309914]

Mr. Simon: My right hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham) attended one media training session in 2008 when he was Secretary of State. All other Ministers in DCMS are recorded as not having undertaken media training courses in the last three years.

Industrial Tribunals

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many industrial tribunals relating to his Department there have been in each of the last five years; and what the cost to his Department was of such tribunals in each such year. [310749]

Mr. Simon: DCMS has had no industrial tribunals in the last five years.

Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many citizens' juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008; on what date each such event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [310752]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has held no citizen juries since October 2008.

Television: Licensing

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many persons over 75 years old received a free television licence in 2008-09. [311232]

Mr. Simon: Free television licences are administered for people aged 75 or over by TV Licensing as agents for the BBC.

According to the BBC's annual report and accounts, there were 4 million free television licences issued to pensioners aged 75 or over in 2008-09.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Israel

Richard Burden: To ask the Solicitor-General what the position was of the Government as presented by the Attorney-General at meetings with representatives of the Government of Israel in January 2010 on the operation of the law of universal jurisdiction in the UK in relation to the possibility of Israeli officials, politicians or military personnel being arrested if they travel to the UK. [310076]

The Solicitor-General *[holding answer January 2010]*: The Attorney-General reiterated the statement by the Foreign Secretary that the Government were looking urgently at ways in which the UK system might be changed to avoid this situation happening again.

TRANSPORT

Freight by Water

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how much funding his Department has provided to Freight by Water in each year since 1993; and how much it plans to provide in 2010-11. [310573]

Paul Clark: Since it was established in 2003, the following sums have been provided to Freight by Water (and its predecessor Sea and Water) as start-up funding and in order to establish the organisation as the UK's Short Sea Shipping Promotion Centre.

Financial year	*Support*
2003-04	120,000
2004-05	120,000
2005-06	120,000
2006-07	120,000
2007-08	120,000
2008-09	120,000
2009-10	80,000

The Department for Transport has undertaken to provide a further £50,000 in 2010-11. In line with the position for other established freight trade bodies, no funding is planned beyond 2010-11.

Inland Waterways: Freight

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps his Department is taking to encourage use of inland and coastal waterways for the transportation of goods and materials. [310574]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport supports the transfer of freight from road to water where it is practical and economically and environmentally sustainable to do so. It does this through three specific grants that aim to purchase the environmental benefits of reducing road freight.

Freight Facilities Grants help to offset the capital cost of providing water and rail freight handling facilities. In return, the grant applicant commits to transferring a specified volume of freight from road to water or rail, through the newly constructed freight handling facility, for a period of up to 10 years.

The Rail Environmental Benefit Procurement scheme, which assists companies with the operating costs associated with running rail freight transport instead of road where rail is more expensive than road, now also covers inland waterways transport, and from 1 April 2010 will be replaced by Mode Shift Revenue Support (MSRS) scheme.

Waterborne Freight Grants assist companies with the operating costs, for up to three years, associated with running coastal and short-sea shipping freight services instead of road (where water is more expensive than road).

In addition, the Department has provided £800,000 in start-up funding to Freight by Water and its predecessor Sea and Water since 2003-04, and has undertaken to provide a further £50,000 in 2010-11. It is also promoting the opportunities and benefits for modal shift through the Freight Best Practice programme.

M6: M42

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what estimate he has made of the average annual consequential carbon dioxide emissions arising from the hard shoulder running schemes on *(a)* the M6 and *(b)* the M42. [310142]

Chris Mole *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* No estimates have been made of average annual carbon dioxide emissions following the introduction of hard shoulder running on the M6 and M42. Desk studies have been carried out by the Highways Agency, based on a calculation of engine characteristics of vehicles using the pilot scheme on the M42. These have shown that emissions have reduced by 4 per cent. per vehicle as a result of a reduction in stop/start traffic conditions.

Motorways: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what *(a)* research and *(b)* trial work his Department has undertaken for the purposes of improving the provision of information to drivers on the motorway network on incidents on their routes in the last five years; and what assessment he made of the outcomes of such work. [309473]

Chris Mole: The Highways Agency has undertaken a number of trials and carried out research regarding a number of its information services. These include:

Traffic England Website

Prior to the new website being launched in April 2009, customer panels were held to test the functionality and understanding of the new site. Following this feedback, changes were made to the design and functionality of the website.

Atlas Professional Website

(A website aimed at professional users such as Travel News Media) The Highways Agency recently carried out an evaluation of this website with users via an online questionnaire. The Agency also asked users for their comments on new functionality that could be offered on this site, which were received positively and this site is due to be refreshed with new functionality later this year.

Variable Message Signs (VMS)

The Agency undertakes National Road Users Satisfaction Surveys on a regular basis which includes questions regarding the accuracy of messages shown on our VMS regarding incidents ahead and these results are used to inform improvements to accuracy of messages. In addition, we also seek feedback about whether road users receive sufficient information about incidents and how they receive this information. This is then fed back to our teams to improve the way information is disseminated.

Travel Times on Variable Message Signs (TTVMS)

This service was trialled on sections of the motorway network from July 2006 until September 2007. Following customer surveys the majority of respondents thought showing travel and delay time messages was a good idea, found them useful and easy to read and understand. Following this, TTVMS was implemented across the whole HA network.

Highways Agency Information Points

A Highways Agency Information Point (HAIP) is a real-time system, providing road users with a unique platform for receiving information on the state of the road network ahead. An initial HAIP prototype was trialled at Hopwood Services on the M42 in 2005, following this success further HAIPs were installed across motorway service areas and truck stops. Following research into drivers' reactions to HAIPs, they have now been updated and now contain a non-interactive single display system.

Traffic Radio

Spoken information service trials took place during 2005 and 2007 and this demonstrated the viability of a 'dip in/dip out' radio service providing constantly updated traffic information on a national and regional basis.

CCTV

A partnership trial with two companies, MxData and the BBC was held in 2006. The Highways Agency created two accounts to access the existing HANET service allowing each organisation to take, store and forward images to the public. During the trial period, a report from MxData showed an overwhelming positive response.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport how many employees of his Department and its agencies have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308519]

Chris Mole: The Department for Transport was formed on 29 May 2002 comprising a central Department and seven agencies.

The Driving Standards Agency, Driver and The Vehicle Licensing Agency, The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, The Highway Agency, The Vehicle Certification Agency and the Government Car and Despatch Agency maintain records of staff convictions. To date, since 2002, 17 employees of these agencies have been convicted of criminal offences. Of these there are 11 recorded convictions for fraud. All of these employees have undergone the appropriate disciplinary procedures, including termination of employment where appropriate.

A further breakdown based on the type of conviction is unavailable because, where figures are fewer than five, it is the Department's policy to withhold details on grounds of individual confidentiality.

The Department for Transport (centre) and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency do not keep central records of employees' convictions or the offences to which they relate. Details of criminal convictions may appear on an individual's personnel files but such information could be retrieved and provided only at disproportionate cost.

Railway Stations: Parking

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport if he will assess the effect on levels of the use of train services of the level of car parking charges at railway station car parks; and if he will make representations to station management companies to encourage lower car parking fees. [310714]

Chris Mole: Charges for car parks operated by train companies are not assessed or monitored by the Department for Transport. Under the terms of franchise agreements, charges at the majority of station car parks are a matter for the train operator, who has a strong commercial incentive not to discourage rail use. The Department has no contractual powers to mandate the level of car park charges.

Railways: Scotland

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what progress his Department has made in assessing the potential for high-speed rail services to Scotland. [311154]

Chris Mole: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 63-64WS, which sets out the Government plans for high speed rail in the UK.

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what research into the effectiveness of traffic policing in reducing numbers of casualties on the roads his Department has commissioned in the last five years [309431]

Paul Clark: In 2007 the Department for Transport published a research report on the development of a database to examine the relationship between road policing activity and accident reduction available at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme2/roadpolicingaccidentreduction/

Roads: Preston

Mr. Hendrick: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what the percentage change in the number of *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injury as a result of road accidents has been in Preston between 1997 and the most recent year for which information is available. [311071]

Paul Clark: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Reported killed and seriously injured road casualties Preston district authority: 1997 and 2008

	1997	*2008*	*Percentage change*
Killed	9	9	0
Seriously injured	156	103	-34

Roads: Salt

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport whether he has approved proposals to amend limits on drivers' hours for the purposes of facilitating the distribution of salt and grit supplies. [310382]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* Ministers issued delegated authority prior to the Christmas period on a conditional basis to named senior officials to issue relaxations to the EU drivers' hours rules for the distribution of road salt.

However, a request was not submitted to the Department for Transport by industry until 7 January. A relaxation to the enforcement of the EU drivers' hours rules was issued and notified to stakeholders on the same afternoon under the delegated authority provided to officials.

The driving time limits and duty limits for 'gritters', which fall in scope of the domestic drivers' hours rules, can be automatically suspended in emergency events such as severe and prolonged adverse weather conditions. Local authorities are aware of this provision and are using it, where absolutely necessary, accordingly.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what steps he is taking to seek to ensure that disruption to road transportation caused by adverse weather conditions does not lead to fuel shortages in *(a)* the north of England and *(b)* the rest of the country. [310554]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 13 January 2010]:* On Wednesday 6 January, the Department for Transport convened the Salt Cell—a collaborative task force involving the devolved Administrations, the Highways Agency and local government.

The Salt Cell has been monitoring salt supplies and advising salt suppliers on the priorities for salt distribution to ensure that we keep major routes open across the whole country, including major distribution routes for fuel and food. In particular, it has worked hard with delivery partners to ensure that power stations remain accessible.

The Government have also relaxed enforcement on drivers' hours regulations for drivers involved in the distribution of heating oil and liquid petroleum gas to expedite the delivery of heating and fuel supplies.

Sittingbourne-Sheerness Railway Line

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* Network Rail and *(b)* South East Trains on the closure of the Sittingbourne to Sheerness line. [310653]

Chris Mole: Ministers at the Department for Transport have had no such discussions and we have no plans to close this line. A bus replacement service has run on a temporary basis during recent severe weather.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds: Conservation

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to increase numbers of farmland birds. [310059]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Agri-environment schemes, such as Environmental Stewardship, are one of a number of measures aimed at helping to meet DEFRA's target of reversing the decline in farmland birds by 2020.

Following recommendations from the Review of Progress of Environmental Stewardship (2008), we plan to improve the scheme's delivery of farmland bird habitats by introducing new options, such as extended overwintered stubble, and modifying existing ones. We are also promoting better uptake of options of specific benefit to farmland birds through increased training and information provision for Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) through, for example, Natural England's ELS Training and Information Programme. We have also improved the targeting for Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) for which farmland birds are a key priority and the subject of a number of specific projects promoting HLS across England, such as the South West Farmland Birds Initiative. Implementation of the review recommendations has already begun and further changes will be implemented during 2010.

Natural England has a target to increase the total area of agricultural land in England being managed under agri-environment schemes to 70 per cent. by March 2011. This, in itself, should help deliver increased habitats for farmland birds. Natural England also has a target in 2009-10 to deliver a further 4,100ha of key arable farmland bird options through Environmental Stewardship—a 20 per cent. increase above the March 2008 baseline.

The industry-led voluntary Campaign for the Farmed Environment should help to retain and exceed the environmental benefits provided by former set-aside land. The campaign promotes activities by farmers and land managers to secure environmental benefits in relation to farmland birds, resource protection and biodiversity provision. It includes a number of targets for June 2012 which will be of direct benefit to farmland birds, such as doubling the uptake of ELS in-field options, covering 40,000 hectares on top of current levels, and increasing uncropped land by 20,000 hectares from January 2008 levels. Natural England has also recently produced a joint leaflet—Farming for Birds—with the campaign and other partner organisations, such as the RSPB, aimed at improving ELS option selection and location in order to help increase farmland bird populations.

Source:

Natural England targets can be found in Natural England corporate plan (2009-12)—70 per cent. target under 3.2.2 and the 4,100 hectares target (1.2.1)

http://naturalengland.etraderstores.com/NaturalEnglandShop/Product.aspx?ProductID=16f703f3-5b79-4068-a1cb-dd5ee0cf72b5

Campaign for Farmed Environment targets can be found in the campaign's Memorandum of Understanding (copies laid in House Libraries).

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle were slaughtered as a consequence of bovine tuberculosis precautions in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* England in each of the last 24 months. [310649]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As data from Vetnet (the Animal Health Database) are produced three months in arrears, figures cannot be provided for the last three months. The following table shows the total of animals slaughtered[1] due to a TB incident in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* England in the last 24 months for which figures are available[2] (up to September 2009):

[1] Animals slaughtered include monthly numbers of cattle removed for TB control reasons (i.e. test reactors and direct contacts) from herds affected by a TB incident in each jurisdiction.

[2] Data from Vetnet are provisional and subject to change as more data become available.

	England	*Cumbria*
2009		
September	1,935	<5
August	1,478	<5
July	1,728	<5
June	1,996	5
May	1,618	7
April	2,490	<5
March	2,717	8
February	2,592	<5
January	3,090	6
2008		
December	2,502	101
November	2,753	9
October	1,977	25
September	2,224	<5
August	1,587	<5
July	2,189	5
June	2,070	5
May	1,799	<5
April	3,373	89
March	2,185	<5
February	2,185	<5
January	2,526	5
2007		
December	2,202	<5
November	2,151	<5
October	1,924	<5

Note:

To protect the anonymity of individual farmers, months with a slaughter count of less than 5 animals are given <5.

Source:

Vetnet—Animal Health Database.

Christmas

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on Christmas (i) cards, (ii) parties and (iii) decorations in the last 12 months. [303845]

Dan Norris: The core Department has produced four e-greetings cards which are environmentally friendly and cheaper than traditional paper cards. Production costs of the e-cards totalled some £156.

DEFRA's policy is that official funds should not be used for departmental Christmas parties and decorations.

All public expenditure has to be incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury hand book on Regularity and Propriety.

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department attended the Copenhagen climate change conference; and at what cost to the public purse. [309180]

Dan Norris: The Secretary of State and three officials attended the Forest Day event in Copenhagen on 13 December, and the Secretary of State and one official remained in Copenhagen to attend the Oceans Day event on 14 December.

One official attended on 11 December to present the Convention on Biological Diversity's ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change report. He chaired the event and was nominated for and supported in this role by DEFRA.

A total of £3,839.34 was spent on attendance. The breakdown of flights, accommodation, subsistence and transport costs is presented as follows. Accommodation covers hotel costs for four people for one night each.

	£
Flights	2,032.09
Accommodation	1,224.48
Subsistence	137.77
Transport/car hire	445

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310529]

Dan Norris: The Department's freehold vacant office estate amounts to an area of 1,014 sq m, with an estimated rental value of £53,000 pa. The freehold occupied office estate amounts to an area of 45,044 sq m, with an estimated rental value of £2,770,000 pa.

The Department's leasehold vacant office estate amounts to an area of 22,433 sq m, with an estimated rental value of £4,717,000 pa. The leasehold occupied office estate amounts to an area of 166,831 sq m, with an estimate rental value of £31,454,000 pa.

Departmental Pay

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department has allocated for *(a)* year-end and *(b)* in-year bonuses in 2009-10. [301299]

Dan Norris: An element of DEFRA's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Non-consolidated variable pay awards are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets and, as such, do not add to future pay bill costs. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent senior salaries review body.

The following sections set out the estimated spend on non-consolidated performance payments for the 2009-10 financial year:

CORE-DEFRA—Including staff in Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate and the Marine and Fisheries Agency

The wages/salary budget for 2009-10 is £200.25 million, of which non-consolidated performance payments represents an estimated 1.5 per cent.

Rural Payments Agency

The wages/salary budget for 2009-10 is £99.3 million, of which non-consolidated performance payments represents an estimated 0.5 per cent.

Centre for the Environment and Aquaculture Science

The wages/salary budget for 2009-10 is £20.46 million of which non-consolidated performance payments represent an estimated 3.9 per cent.

Food and Environment Research Agency

The wages/salary budget for 2009-10 is £31.42 million, of which non-consolidated performance payments represent an estimated 1.25 per cent.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

The wages/salary budget for 2009-10 is £41,143,891.11, of which non-consolidated performance payments represents an estimated 0.472 per cent.

CEFAS has relatively higher non-consolidated pay when compared as a percentage against the DEFRA Network, because they have specifically worked to structure a total rewards package with a greater non-consolidated pay element that is directly performance based and must be re-earned each year. This places a greater link between performance and reward and while their percentage of non consolidated pay is larger than others this is more than offset by their consolidated pay (i.e. salaries) which is low relative to the DEFRA Network and Whitehall.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it remains his policy to introduce a ban on beak trimming of laying hens in 2011. [311179]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have accepted further advice from The Farm Animal Welfare Council, an independent advisory body, that a complete ban on beak trimming of laying hens should not be introduced from 1 January 2011 (as is currently in legislation), but should be deferred until it can be demonstrated reliably under commercial conditions that laying hens can be managed without beak trimming, without a greater risk to their welfare than that caused by beak trimming itself. The Government want to reduce the number of procedures that are defined in legislation as 'mutilations' and protect the welfare of laying hens, but a balance has to be struck between reducing the number of procedures carried out and ensuring that the birds do not suffer worse welfare insults, such as feather pecking and cannibalism.

The Government will shortly issue a consultation on proposed amendments to the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended) to remove the total ban on beak trimming, to allow for routine beak trimming of day-old chicks intended for laying to be done using the infra-red technique only.

Recycling: Calderdale

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much household waste Calderdale Council has recycled in the last five years; and whether the amount recycled in each of those years met his Department's targets. [310458]

Dan Norris: The following table shows tonnages and percentages of household waste sent for recycling, composting and reuse by Calderdale council for the financial years of 2004-05 to 2008-09.

Data for years 2004-05 to 2007-08 are Best Value Performance Indicators 82a (dry recycling) and 82b (composting), while data for 2008-09 are in National Indicator 192, which includes dry recycling, composting and reuse.

Tonnage for 2004-05 could not be provided. WasteDataFlow was introduced that year and data provided by local authorities were unreliable and were not published. The recycling rate for that year is taken from the Audit Commission's website.

	Recycling/ composting/reuse (tonnes)	*Recycling rate (percentage)*	*Target (percentage)*
2004-05	—	17.05	[1]—
2005-06	17,717	20.35	18
2006-07	18,952	21.30	[1]—
2007-08	22,011	24.92	20
2008-09	21,279	25.84	[1]—

[1] No target set

Source:
WasteDataFlow and the Audit Commission

River Lymington: Ferries

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what studies Natural England has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated to secure bathymetric and other data to measure adverse effects of ferry movements on the Lymington river mudflats and the effectiveness of potential mitigation and compensation measures. [310730]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Natural England has evaluated three studies on the risk of impacts of the W class ferry on the Natura 2000 sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Lymington, produced by: ABPmer; H R Wallingford; and Black and Veatch.

Natural England has also commissioned and evaluated technical advice from H R Wallingford on the technical effectiveness of Wightlink's proposal to mitigate any adverse impacts of the W class ferries on these sites.

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what budget has been allocated to the process of evaluating submissions to the consultation on the proposal to deposit dredge material on the Lymington mudflats scheduled to end on 22 January; and if he will make a statement. [310731]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Natural England has an internal team to manage the stakeholder engagement process in relation to Wightlink's mitigation proposals. This team is supported by expert technical advice. No budget has been allocated for this exercise, the costs of which will be met from existing resources.

Sheep

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of records relating to sheep born in the UK that have been lost in each of the last five years. [310647]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No estimate has been made of the number of records relating to sheep born in England that have been lost in each of the last five years.

Sheep inspections and record keeping in Scotland and Wales are a matter for devolved Administrations.

Wood: Government Departments

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made an estimate of the proportion of wood-based products procured by the Government and its agencies in the last 12 months which come from *(a)* Forest Stewardship Council-certified sources, *(b)* Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification scheme-certified sources, *(c)* other timber certification schemes and (d) non-certified sources; and what mechanisms are in place to monitor compliance with his Department's Buy Sustainable - Quick Wins minimum environmental product standards. [309673]

Dan Norris: From 1 April 2009 all timber and timber derived products purchased by the UK Government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies must comply with the UK Government's timber procurement policy. Only legal and sustainable or FLEGT licensed timber and wood products should be purchased. No distinction is made between forest certification schemes, and also no distinction between certification and other forms of evidence.

Guidance is available on how to ensure purchased timber meets the UK Government legality and sustainability criteria. Please see the document "UK Government timber procurement policy: Definition of 'legal' and 'sustainable' for timber procurement (TPAN April 2009) on the CPET website at:

http://www.proforest.net/cpet/files/TPAN

A recent report, 'UK Timber Industry Certification' by Timbertrends, concluded that in 2008 the proportion of certified products available to the UK timber supply chain by forest certification scheme was distributed as follows: FSC 51.5 per cent.; PEFC 31.5 per cent.; other schemes 0.5 per cent.; and 33.2 per cent. not certified. We assume that the proportion of certified timber and wood products purchased (with category A evidence) by the public sector reflects availability and with two thirds being FSC and one third being PEFC.

This proportion also corresponds with CPETs experience. It should however be noted that the report quoted assessed the timber industry and for other product groups such as paper and furniture the proportions might not be the same.

Furthermore, a recent study conducted by DEFRA and CPET 'timber reporting pilot study' published July 2009 and available on the CPET website

http://www.proforest.net/cpet/files/
CPET%20Reporting%20pilot%20study%20July%2009.pdf/view

showed that implementation of reporting requirements across mandated bodies is not currently possible, but that assurance of implementation and compliance with the policy is a first step towards achieving meaningful data.

DEFRA in conjunction with CPET has also started an awareness raising campaign and support program across Central Government as well as encouraging local authorities and the remainder of the public sector to voluntarily adopt the UK Government timber procurement policy.

Support for delivery and compliance with Quick Wins, by central government departments, is overseen by the Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement (CESP) in the Office of Government Commerce (OGC).

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information: Consultants

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Central Office of Information has spent on strategic consultancy in 2009-10; and which Departments received services or advice from such consultancy. [309832]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 7 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on COI Strategic Consultancy spend in 2009/10 (309832).

Strategic Consultancy spend for the financial year 2009/10 cannot be provided until the figures have been fully audited and approved.

COI spend figures for 2009/10 will be published in our annual report and accounts this summer.

Central Office of Information: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much the Central Office of Information has spent on its cost-benchmarking project. [309845]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 7 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on COI Cost-benchmarking 2009/10 (309845).

The COI Cost-benchmarking project is an internal project and as such any costs associated with this would be internal staff time.

This information is not held centrally and could only be made available at disproportionate cost.

Central Office of Information: Publications

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many copies of the Central Office of Information's book, How Public Sector Advertising Works, have been sold; and what income has been derived from these sales. [309844]

Tessa Jowell: I have asked the chief executive of the Central Office of Information to reply to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 7 January 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on COI sales of the COI book, How Public Sector Advertising Works (309844).

Sales of the book have so far generated total sales of £52,000.

Copies of the book are also made available educational purposes.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office which websites her Department's staff are blocked from accessing on departmental networked computers. [310052]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office Corporate IT System accesses the Internet via the Government Secure Intranet (GSI) services as provided by Cable and Wireless.

In order to enforce the Cabinet Office HR 'Appropriate Usage Policy' for our IT systems we additionally use the website blocking system Websense Web Filter. The Websense Web Filter provides a list of categories to be blocked and URLs of sites within the category are updated on a daily basis. We use this to block the categories rather than specific web sites.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by her Department since 1 May 2008. [307789]

Angela E. Smith: No criminal offences have been created or abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by the Cabinet Office since 1 May 2008.

HEALTH

Cervical Cancer: Vaccination

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vaccinations against cervical cancer were provided in 2009. [310472]

Gillian Merron: In total, about 2,076,000 doses of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine were administered between 1 January and 30 November 2009 (December 2009 data are not available currently) as part of the HPV vaccination programme in England. Three doses of the vaccine are needed to ensure sufficient protection.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate has been made of the reduction in the average number of cases of cervical cancer which will be diagnosed each year as a result of the introduction of the policy of offering teenage girls vaccination against cervical cancer. [310476]

Gillian Merron: Immunising young women with the human papillomavirus vaccine could eventually lower the number of new cases of cervical cancer diagnosed each year in England by approximately 1,300 from recent levels.

Departmental Billing

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of invoices from suppliers his Department paid within 10 days of receipt in December 2009. [311262]

Phil Hope: The proportion of invoices paid within 10 days of receipt to commercial suppliers by the Department in December 2009 was 95.43 per cent.

Departmental Public Consultation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* citizens' juries and *(b)* summits have been hosted by his Department since June 2007; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event; [310237]

(2) how many citizens' juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [310778]

Ann Keen: The Department recognises the important contribution that the public can make in developing policy and carry out a wide range of activities which allow ministers and officials to listen to and understand the views of the public and stakeholders in developing policy.

Data from 2007 on the number of citizens' juries and consultation with random panels of people to aid decision-making by the Department are not readily available. Supplying the occurrences of citizens' juries and deliberative consultations would require a substantive investigation into all public engagement programmes undertaken by various divisions within the Department at a disproportionate cost.

However, the Department does engage widely with the public using a number of methodologies which feed into the policy making process. These do on occasion include citizens' juries and summits and other events which can but do not always include ministerial attendance.

Some examples of engagement events which involved Ministers were:

NHS Next Stage Review—led by the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Lord Darzi;

(September 2007 events held in each strategic health authority and attended by various Ministers including Prime Minister Gordon Brown, former Secretary of State for Health Alan Johnson and former departmental Ministers Lord Darzi, Ben Bradshaw, Dawn Primarolo and current minister Ann Keen);

(January 2008 events again held in each SHA and attended by various Ministers including Lord Darzi and Ann Keen); and

Primary and Community Care Review (April 2008 event attended partially by Ben Bradshaw).

Some examples of extensive public engagement which did not involve Ministers include:

Review into the Consequences of Additional Private Drugs for the NHS (2008): workshops with cancer patients, email consultation and the focus groups; and

NHS Constitution (2008-09): A series of focus groups and a deliberative event with patients, the public and stakeholders.

Mental Health Services

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people were admitted to mental health units in each primary care trust area in each month of the last two years; [310570]

(2) how many people were admitted into mental health units in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [310571]

Phil Hope: The information has been placed in the Library.

Musculoskeletal Disorders: Health Services

Patrick Hall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance's report "Joint Working? An audit of the implementation of the Department of Health's Musculoskeletal Services Framework". [310782]

Ann Keen: The Musculoskeletal Services Framework provides good practice guidance for the national health service on delivering care closer to home for people in the UK with bone and joint conditions. It was published as good practice guidance, and as such the Department is not mandating its implementation but continues to support the good practice promoted in the guidance.

The Department has no plans to make a specific assessment of the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance's report "Joint Working? An audit of the implementation of the Department of Health's Musculoskeletal Services Framework".

NHS Litigation Authority

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organisations achieved level *(a)* 0, *(b)* 1, *(c)* 2 and *(d)* 3 in NHS Litigation Authority assessments in each of the last three years; and if he will list those organisations in each such category. [310174]

Ann Keen: The data requested for each organisation are contained in the documents:

Risk Management Assessment Levels 2006-07.

Risk Management Assessment Levels 2007-08.

Risk Management Assessment Levels 2008-09.

Copies have been placed in the Library.

The data are also available from the Factsheets (No. 4) in the publication section of the NHS Litigation Authority's website: www.nhsla.com

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 757W, how much has been paid to each legal firm employed to draft the contracts for the National Programme for IT. [309163]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As part of the total sum for legal and commercial support relating to the national programme for information technology, monies paid to the legal firms in question include among a range of things, fees for the drafting of contracts. Information is not held in a form that makes it possible to identify payments made for work relating specifically to the drafting of contracts.

Between 1 April 2002 and 31 March 2009, the total fees paid to Allen & Overy amounted to £10,309,877 and to DLA Piper UK LLP £28,864,938, although Allen and Overy ceased to advise after 2006.

Obesity: Children

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of children in each multiple deprivation decile were classified as obese in 2009. [310644]

Gillian Merron: The information is not available in the form requested.

However, the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) provides data on the prevalence of obesity in children aged 4-5 years (reception year) and 10-11 years (year 6). Figures 13 and 14 in the NCMP report for 2008-09 provide information on the prevalence of obese children in reception and year 6 as measured by the index of multiple deprivation 2007. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Orthopaedics

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* below-knee lower limb amputations and *(b)* above-knee limb amputations have taken place in each strategic health authority in the NHS in each of the last five years. [309976]

Ann Keen: Tables providing the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where there was a main or secondary procedure of below knee amputation; above knee amputations; other amputations; and amputation of foot or toe by strategic health authority (SHA) of treatment, have been placed in the Library.

In 2006-07 there was a SHA configuration change, where 28 SHAs merged into 10. For this reason, data for 2006-07 to 2008-09 are based on the new configuration and the data prior to this are based on the old configuration.

It should be noted that the number of FCEs does not represent the number of patients as a patient may have more than one episode within a year.

Reference should be made to the footnotes and clinical codes when interpreting the data.

Stafford Hospital

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received requesting a public inquiry into Stafford Hospital under the Inquiries Act 2005. [309864]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In the period since the Healthcare Commission published their report in March 2009, the Department has had requests for a public inquiry, for example from local Members of Parliament and from a local patient group, Cure the NHS.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Airguns: Children

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of measures to control the sale of air rifles to children via the internet. [310227]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 introduced a number of changes to the controls on air weapons which will help prevent the unlawful sale of air weapons to minors The minimum age for purchasing an air weapon was increased to 18 and the final transfer of all air weapons sold by way of trade or business must be conducted on a face-to-face basis. This provides an opportunity to seek proof of identity if there is any doubt about the purchaser's age. These changes were introduced with effect from 1 October 2007 and their impact will be closely monitored together with all other controls on air weapons.

Asylum

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evidence there is that the policy before 2002 of allowing asylum seekers who had waited more than six months for a decision on their claim to apply for permission to work was a pull factor for asylum seekers to come to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [305956]

Mr. Woolas: The Government believe that managed migration is a valuable source of skills and labour to the British economy and there are recognised routes into the UK for those seeking to work. However, entering the country for economic reasons is not the same as seeking asylum, and it is important to maintain the distinction between the two.

Giving asylum seekers or failed asylum seekers permission to work would be likely to encourage asylum applications from those without a well-founded fear of persecution, hence slowing down the processing of applications made by genuine refugees and undermining the integrity of the managed migration system. Indeed, asylum intake has dropped significantly since the policy change in 2002.

This is why we do not generally allow asylum seekers to work while their claim for asylum is under consideration. The only exception is asylum seekers who have been waiting 12 months for a decision where this delay cannot be attributed to them. This is consistent with our obligations under the EC reception directive.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for permission to work were *(a)* made by asylum seekers and *(b)* granted in each year since 2000. [305957]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information on the number of applications for permission to work made by asylum seekers and those granted since 2000 is not collated and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost through examination of individual case records.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the potential savings that could be made by allowing asylum seekers who have waited more than six months for a decision on their claim to undertake paid work so that they would not be dependent on support from the public purse. [305958]

Mr. Woolas: No formal estimate has been made to date. However, the Government consider that while allowing asylum seekers to work may increase tax revenue this has to be balanced finely against the very real concern that allowing employment will act as a pull factor, and that the UK may subsequently receive an increase in the number of unfounded asylum applications as a result. We also have to consider the potential that this may have to delay the processing of asylum claims which would lead to more hardship, not less and more demands on the public purse as well as an increase in exploitation by traffickers.

Borders: Personal Records

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his latest estimate is of the date on which the e-Borders programme will be fully operational. [309526]

Mr. Woolas: The e-Borders programme is expected to be fully operational by 31 March 2014, processing 100 per cent. of all passengers and crew into and out of the UK.

e-Borders aims to capture 95 per cent. of passenger and crew movements by December 2010, covering all commercial traffic. It is expected that the remaining 5 per cent. including leisure boaters and the general aviation sector, will be providing travel document information data after 2010.

Capita

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions Capita Group plc tendered for contracts let by his Department in each of the last five years; how many such tenders were successful; how much his Department paid to Capita Group plc for the execution of contracts in each such year; how many contracts which terminate after 2010 Capita Group plc hold with his Department; and what the monetary value is of all outstanding contracts between his Department and Capita Group plc. [303158]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Department does not retain a central register of companies that tender for contracts. A search of individual records for instances where Capita Group plc or its subsidiaries have submitted tenders in each of the last five years could only be undertaken at disproportionate cost, however, six contracts were awarded in this period.

Inclusive of its agencies, the Department's total spend on Capita Group plc and its subsidiaries contracts in each of the last five years is as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2004-05	46.3
2005-06	53.2
2006-07	60.0
2007-08	62.6
2008-09	68.6

The majority of the spend derives from the Criminal Records Bureau's Disclosure processing contract with Capita Business Services Ltd. The contract was awarded in 2000 and runs for 10 years from service go-live which occurred in March 2002. This is the only contract held by the Department with Capita Group plc or its subsidiaries which expires after 2010. The outstanding monetary value of the Disclosures processing contract with Capita Business Services Ltd is £249 million.

Christmas

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Christmas trees were purchased by his Department and its agencies in each of the last five years; what the cost was of those trees in each year; from where the trees were sourced; what account was taken of the sustainability of the sources of the trees; and by what process the trees were disposed of. [305639]

Mr. Woolas: My Department does not keep central records on the purchase of Christmas trees. At our Headquarters in 2 Marsham street the Christmas trees have been provided by the facilities management provider at no additional cost to the Department for this year and the previous two years. These are sourced from a company who provide a certificate of origin and environmental benefit. Before that trees were from sourced from the Prison Service. On disposal the trees are chipped and recycled.

Crime Prevention: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to ensure the continuation of collaborative crackdowns on the illegal use of drugs and pubs in the city of Milton Keynes. [310221]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Investigations into allegations of illegal drug supply and consumption in licensed premises is a matter for the police, who prioritise resources towards tackling crime which causes the most harm.

Many police forces undertake action targeting the night-time economy. This includes sniffer dog operations in and around pubs and clubs and the deployment of drug trace detection machines. The use of trace detection devices can be a deterrent for drug users and dealers, and provides reassurance to the community by showing that a high profile drugs initiative is in operation. The most effective response to tackling drug supply in licensed premises is through a partnership approach between the police, licensing officers and local authorities to identify hotspot bars, pubs and clubs and then working with licensees to reduce drug supply in their premises.

The Government announced in March 2009 that the only central target for the police will be to increase public confidence. The target states that nationally, by 2012 60 per cent. of the public will feel confident that the police and local councils are tackling the crime and antisocial behaviour issues that matter most locally.

Criminal Records

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his most recent estimate is of the number and proportion of white males who have a criminal record. [310367]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 12 January 2010]*: The Police National Computer (PNC) is an operational tool and is not designed to produce the information requested. To do so would require software to be designed, produced and tested to interrogate the PNC. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which conferences held overseas have been attended by civil servants based in his Department in the last three years; and what the cost to the public purse was of such attendance at each conference. [305875]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309875]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office does not hold this information centrally, nor will it be able to provide this information without disproportionate cost.

Departmental Electronic Equipment

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many plasma screen televisions his Department has purchased since 2001; and what the cost has been of purchasing and installing such screens in each such year. [306075]

Mr. Woolas: Central records on the purchase of plasma screens are not held.

Departmental Energy

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* energy rating and *(b)* energy band of each building occupied by his Department and its agencies was in each year for which figures are available. [305972]

Mr. Woolas: Display Energy Certificates (DEC) were introduced in 2008. OGC publish central Government Departments' Display Energy Certificate (DEC) operational ratings on a building by building level twice a year. The most recent data for the Home Office, published on 31 July 2009, include DEC ratings up to and including 28 February 2009 and can be seen via this link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Pan_Govt_DEC_Feb09.xls

This information covers one Home Office Building, 16 UK Border properties and eight Identity and Passport Service buildings.

Data to October 2008 can be seen via this link:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/Pan_Govt_DEC_Oct08.xls

Data relating to the month ending 30 September 2009 will be published on 18 December 2009.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department since 1 May 2008. [307807]

Alan Johnson: The following new offences have been created by secondary legislation since 1 May 2008:

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2009

Importation, exportation, production, supply and possession of Controlled Drugs—addition of new Class B and Class C drugs (Article 2).

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2008

Importation, exportation, production, supply and possession of Controlled Drugs—reclassification of certain drugs as Class B drugs (Article 2).

No offences have been abolished by secondary legislation since 1 May 2008.

Departmental Research

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department spent on unpublished research in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* each of the last four years. [301306]

Mr. Woolas: Most Home Office research reports are published except where the Home Office Chief Scientific Advisor decides not to publish in a Home Office series on the grounds of inadequate scientific quality following independent and external peer review, or if the results are badly out of date, or on national security or public interest grounds, or for operational reasons.

The available information for the period 2005-06 to 2009-10 is shown in the following table. It includes the programme costs of the external research projects where a decision has been taken not to publish the research as a Home Office report or where the research has had a limited distribution. We have not included research which is ongoing and where no decision has yet been taken on publication. For 2009-10 around half of the cost is attributed to a project not published on national security grounds.

Costs of external research where a decision has been taken not to publish the research.

	Estimated external programme costs (£ excluding VAT)
2005-06	84,000
2006-07	10,000
2007-08	0
2008-09	253,000
2009-10	273,000

Departmental Travel

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date he last travelled by *(a)* bus and *(b)* taxi in the course of his official duties. [302730]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State regularly uses public transport and walks to local engagements.

Deportation

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many charter flights removing persons with no right to stay in the UK there have been in 2009; what the destination was of each such flight; how many individuals were removed on such flights; and what the cost to the public purse of such flights was. [307036]

Mr. Woolas: The following figures show the total number of charter flights conducted by the UK Border Agency for the purpose of removing those with no right to remain in the United Kingdom, and the total number of individuals removed on those flights, from 1 January to 8December 2009.

Number of flights—64

Number of persons removed—1,973

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional and subject to change.

In 2009 (to 8 December), charter flights were conducted to the following destination countries:

Afghanistan
Albania
Democratic Republic of Congo
Iraq
Jamaica
Kosovo
Nigeria

However, the UK Border Agency is unable to disclose the number of flights to each destination country, as this information is confidential for operational reasons.

The UK Border Agency keeps records of the overall annual costs of charter flights by financial year. Figures for the financial year 2009-10 are not yet available, as they are subject to audit and may therefore change; however, for the financial year 2008-09, the cost of charter flights was £8,227,553.38.

The Home Office also publishes statistics on the number of persons who were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. Annual statistics for 2008 and the latest statistics for Q3 2009 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

EC Immigration

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 734-5W, on EU law, to which *(a)* 43 EU measures on asylum and migration and *(b)* 15 measures on civil law the UK has opted in. [305151]

Mr. Woolas: A list of measures the UK has decided to participate in through the opt-in arrangements under title IV of the treaty establishing the European Communities is shown at annex A placed in the House Library.

Entry Clearances

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what remedies his Department provides for those wishing to contest the decision to place them on the list of individuals excluded from the UK; what steps he takes to monitor the effectiveness of such decisions; and whether those placed on the list are informed of their inclusion. [300385]

Mr. Woolas: An individual may contest a decision to place them on the list of those individuals excluded from the UK by seeking a judicial review of the exclusion decision. Where an immigration decision is taken to refuse or cancel leave, on the basis of the Home Secretary's decision to exclude, this refusal decision may provide a right of appeal. If evidence can be provided that an individual has recanted their extremist statements in a genuine, credible and public manner, their exclusion may be reconsidered by the Home Secretary.

Decisions to exclude are normally reviewed every three years but otherwise remain in place unless the Home Secretary decides to lift the exclusion. An individual who has been excluded for engaging in unacceptable behaviour is notified of their exclusion where it is possible to do so.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken to process an application was for a *(a)* Tier 1 (investor), *(b)* Tier 1 (entrepreneur) and *(c)* EU Association Agreement business visa for a foreign national whose application to visit the UK on commercial matters was granted in each month of the last three years. [304817]

Mr. Woolas: The following table illustrates by month the average time taken to process requested categories of visa applications over the last three years. Tier 1 of the points based system was introduced on 1 July 2008.

Average days to resolve applications

	Endorsement		
Issued month	*Business—EC associate*	*Tier 1 (investor) migrant*	*Tier 1 (entrepreneur) migrant*
2007			
January	—	—	—
February	0	—	—
March	—	—	—
April	1	—	—
May	—	—	—
June	—	—	—
July	—	—	—
August	—	—	—
September	—	—	—
October	3	—	—
November	—	—	—
December	—	—	—
2008			
January	—	—	—
February	—	—	—
March	—	—	—
April	1	—	—
May	—	—	—
June	2	—	—
July	—	3	4
August	—	7	—
September	—	11	8
October	—	25	2
November	—	14	3
December	—	5	12
2009			
January	—	29	13
February	—	16	2
March	—	10	15
April	—	9	16
May	—	8	13
June	—	9	7
July	—	12	2
August	—	12	10
September	—	10	7
October	—	11	5
November	—	15	4

Note:
Tier 1 introduced 1 July 2008.

Quarterly information about the performance and processing times of each of our visa sections, against our target agreed customers service standards, is published on the following website:

www.ukvisas.gov.uk.

A guide to current processing times is also available on this website.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 888-9W, on entry clearances, how many *(a)* postal and *(b)* premium applications for further leave to remain have been made under Tier 4 of the points-based system since April 2009; and how much revenue has accrued from fees for applications of each type since that date. [306369]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 14 December 2009]:* The number of valid postal applications made for further leave to remain under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system during the period 1 April 2009 to 30 November 2009 is 68,777. The value of these applications is £25,058,389. The number of valid premium applications for further leave to remain made under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system during the period 1 April 2009 to 30 November 2009 is 10,780. The value of these applications is £6,233,100.

The amount of revenue earned from fees from caseworking activities in respect of postal applications for further leave to remain made under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system during the period 1 April 2009 to 30 November 2009 is £14,762,673.

The amount of revenue earned from caseworking activities in respect of fees for premium applications for further leave to remain made under Tier 4 of the points-based immigration system during the period 1 April 2009 to 30 November 2009 is £6,030,150.

This information is derived from internal management information systems. All figures from this source are provisional and subject to audit and amendment.

Entry Clearances: Graduates

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many students who completed their qualifications at *(a)* a further education college and *(b)* a higher education institution have been granted leave to remain and sought employment under the Tier 1 (Post-study work) visa scheme since the introduction of the points-based system. [308790]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not centrally recorded and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many bogus colleges have been closed in *(a)* England, *(b)* Bedfordshire and *(c)* Luton in the last six months. [304640]

Mr. Woolas: Within the last six months, 76 educational institutions have been found to be non bona fide as per the immigration rules, prior to the introduction of the points-based system. These institutions do not have Tier 4 licences, but being identified as non bona fide would not necessarily result in their closure, although it would result in the refusal of any outstanding overseas student applications.

Since the introduction of the points based system, the UK Border Agency maintains a register of educational establishments that meet the requirements of Tier 4. Establishments that do not meet these criteria will have their application for a sponsor licence refused.

Educational establishments that have been registered as a sponsor but found to no longer meet the requirements of Tier 4 have their licence revoked. As at 21 December, the licences for 14 establishments had been revoked. All of these are in England.

Exclusion Orders: International Cooperation

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the UK's list of persons who are to be denied travel to and admission into the UK is automatically shared with the border agency authorities of *(a)* the Netherlands, *(b)* other European Union member states and *(c)* other states and jurisdictions; and if he will make a statement. [309980]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* The UK Border Agency holds a watchlist of adverse information drawn from a variety of sources, including visa refusals, the police, SOCA and other Government Departments. The system is used by UK Border Agency staff for the purposes of national security and the detection and prevention of crime. Refusal of entry may be based on information from any of these sources.

The UK Border Agency does not automatically share information held on the UK watchlist with The Netherlands. The only European member state that the UK Border Agency regularly shares information with, including that held on immigration watchlists, is the Irish Government.

This is undertaken on a routine basis in some instances and on a specific, case-by-case in others. We have a longstanding policy not to disclose exactly what information is shared.

Data sharing with the Irish Government remains a key area for increased co-operation between the UK and the Republic of Ireland, and was recognised as such in the 'Strengthening The Common Travel Area' public consultation and subsequent response.

Decisions as to whether it is appropriate and proportionate to share information held on the watchlist with authorities in other countries are made by the owners of that information, on a case-by-case basis.

As the UK Border Agency does not own all of the data held on the watchlist, we cannot comment on the data-sharing policies of other data owners.

Foreign Workers: Entry Clearances

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many temporary visas have been issued to foreign nationals employed by IBM (India) to fulfil contracts between IBM and Avon and Somerset Constabulary. [306351]

Mr. Woolas: This information cannot be retrieved centrally. It would be necessary to examine individual application forms and we could therefore provide the information requested only at disproportionate cost.

Fraud: Credit Cards

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to reduce credit card fraud. [310835]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Figures published by the payments industry in October 2009 showed that card fraud losses overall fell by 23 per cent. to £232.8 million in the first half of 2009 compared with the same period in 2008.

The Home Office continues to work closely with the payments industry and supports industry initiatives to help prevent card fraud such as Verified by Visa and Mastercard Secure Code, and the Be Card Smart Online Campaign.

The Home Office actively supports the Dedicated Cheque and Plastic Crime Unit, a specialist police unit funded by the payments industry which investigates cheque and plastic card fraud where there is an element of organised criminal activity, and provides additional funds to the City of London Police to take on a lead force role in the investigation of serious and organised fraud. In addition the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police have made provision to establish a national police e-crime unit which has been set up to co-ordinate the law enforcement approach to all types of e-crime, including fraud.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals referred to the human trafficking national referral mechanism are *(a)* being accommodated by a specialist accommodation provider, *(b)* in an immigration removal centre and *(c)* in prison. [309624]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009 there have been 348 national referral mechanism referrals where the individual was accommodated by a specialist accommodation provider, 27 cases where the individual was in an immigration detention centre and 22 cases where the subject was in prison or a young offenders institution.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many referrals of potential victims of human trafficking have been made to the national referral mechanism by each first responder agency. [309625]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009 there have been 527 referrals made to the national referral mechanism. The referrals were made by the following agencies:

	Number of referrals
UKBA	238
Police	166
Local authorities	57
Poppy	27
Kalayaan	19
TARA	9
Migrant Helpline	8
CPS	2
NHS	1
Total	527

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many referrals of potential victims of trafficking to the National Referral Mechanism made since 1 April 2009 have received a *(a)* positive and *(b)* negative reasonable grounds decision; and in respect of how many such referrals (i) a decision is pending and (ii) no decision was made. [309666]

Mr. Woolas: Between 1 April 2009 and 31 December 2009 there have been 527 referrals made to Competent Authorities within the National Referral Mechanism. The breakdown of Reasonable Grounds decisions are as follows:

	Number
Positive	301
Negative	131
Suspended	7
Withdrawn	18
No decision recorded	70
Total	527

'Suspended' cases are where the individual has either absconded or is missing prior to the reasonable grounds decision being made.

'Withdrawn' are where the individual has left the UK prior to the reasonable grounds decision being made.

'No decision recorded' means the decision has not been officially logged with UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC). This is where the reasonable grounds decision is either still being considered or where the decision has yet to be recorded on the UKHTC system.

Immigration Controls

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid Sussex of 2 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 752W, on immigration controls, which educational institutions have *(a)* been granted sponsor licences since the inception of the points-based immigration system and *(b)* had their licences revoked. [305480]

Mr. Woolas: The list of colleges which are currently licensed under Tier 4 of the Points Based System is on the UKBA website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/employersandsponsors/pointsbasedsystem/registerofsponsorseducation

To date, 14 colleges have had their licences revoked. Information on the names of which educational institutions have had their licences revoked cannot be disclosed on grounds of commercial sensitivity.

Islam4UK

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department plans to take steps against the founders of Islam4UK under racial hatred legislation. [309642]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: The actions of this group are of significant concern to the Government and an Order providing that Al Muhajiroun, Islam4UK, Islamic Path, Call to Submission and London School of Sharia are to be treated as alternative names for the proscribed organisation Al-Ghurabaa and The Saved Sect was laid in Parliament on Monday 11 January. This action will make membership of the organisation unlawful. The investigation and prosecution of offences under both proscription and race hate legislation are matters for, respectively, the police and the Crown Prosecution Service. Should members of the public believe that members or supporters of this group have committed a racist hate crime then they should report the matter to the police.

Islam4UK: Internet

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to prevent the promotion through Islam4UK websites of the teachings of individuals who have been required to leave the UK as a result of their extremist views. [309640]

Mr. Hanson *[holding answer 11 January 2010]*: The Home Office has no powers to remove or modify extremist material on websites. Where websites are identified to contain unlawful material, the police have powers under section 3 of the Terrorism Act 2006 to seek the removal or modification of that material.

As my hon. Friend will be aware, on Monday my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary laid an order providing that the name Islam4UK, along with several others, be treated as alternative names for an organisation which is already proscribed under the names Al Ghurabaa and The Saved Sect.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter dated 16 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms N. Anjum. [310495]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 7 January 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter dated 12 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. M. Ishfaq. [310497]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 6 January 2010.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter dated 25 November 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr E. Diala. [310499]

Alan Johnson: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 7 January 2010.

Missing Persons

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of *(a)* UK national and *(b)* non-UK national missing persons of each age have been recorded by the Missing Persons Bureau in each year since 1997; and how many were subsequently found. [308757]

Alan Johnson: The information requested is given in the tables. 34,972 missing persons cases have been recorded by the Missing Persons Bureau between 1 January 1997 and 16 December 2009. Of these 17,641 are British, 14,365 are non-British. No nationality data are available for 2,966 cases. Note that these figures relate to incidents of missing rather than individuals; the same person can go missing several times.

30,540 (87 per cent.) of these cases have subsequently been marked as 'closed' on the database (i.e. the missing person has returned or been located). Research suggests[1] that 99 per cent. of missing persons are located within one year of going missing. Not all cancellations are received by the Bureau. As force compliance with the code increases the percentage of closed cases on HERMES will increase.

[1] Tarling, R. and Burrows, J. (2004) 'The nature and outcome of going missing: the challenge of developing effective risk assessment procedures', International Journal of Police Science and Management, Vol.6, No. 1, 16-26

Data relating to missing cases by nationality (UK, non-UK or unknown) and age are given in the tables placed in the House Library. 'Closed' refers to the status of cases where the individual was subsequently found. Data relating to 'age' are given at the date the person went missing. Ages have been grouped together and where there are small numbers of cases (under five) in individual cells exact figures have not been provided to protect identity and maintain confidentiality.

The HERMES database used for the recording of missing persons data is an operational database used for policing purposes. The data are normally only used for management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply to national statistics publications. The data are therefore provisional and may be subject to change.

A code of practice for the collection of missing persons data was introduced in April 2009. Although limited data have been collected as some police forces have implemented the code, it is unlikely that any meaningful and complete national picture of missing persons will be available until early summer 2010, when all police forces will become compliant with the code. Meanwhile the available figures can be regarded as indicative only.

Sexual Offences: Taxis

Dr. Pugh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has made an estimate of the number of incidents of *(a)* rape and *(b)* sexual assault attributed to drivers of (i) black cabs, (ii) licensed minicabs and (iii) unlicensed minicabs in the last five years. [310119]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested cannot be provided as data on incidents of rape and sexual assault attributed to drivers of black cabs, licensed minicabs unlicensed minicabs are not reported to the Home Office.

Terrorism: Stop and Search

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted since the enactment of the Counter Terrorism Act 2008 for offences relating to the taking of photographs. [310771]

Mr. Hanson: Section 76 of the Counter Terrorism Act 2008 inserts a new clause (Section 58A) into the Terrorism Act 2000 which relates to the offence, inter alia, of taking photographs of members of the armed forces, police or security and intelligence services. The Home Office collates statistics on the number of terrorism arrests, charges and convictions. However, the data are recorded in a way which shows offences under S58 but does not show convictions under subsections of S58. These statistics were included in a Bulletin published for the first time on 13 May 2009 (Statistics on Terrorism Arrests and Outcomes Great Britain 11 September 2001 to 31 March 2008). The first edition of the Bulletin is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb0409.pdf

The second issue of the Bulletin was published on 26 November 2009 and is available via the following link:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1809.pdf

Whistleblowers

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many allegations of victimisation for whistleblowing have been made to his Department by its staff since 6 June 2006. [301486]

Mr. Woolas: It is not Government practice to release information where the numbers of staff involved are small, as to do so could identify the individuals involved.

Civil servants are required to act in accordance with the standards and core values set out in the Civil Service Code. The Civil Service Code also provides for civil servants to raise matters of concern with the independent Civil Service Commissioners if they do not receive what they consider to be a reasonable response following departmental internal procedures. The Commissioners will also consider taking a complaint direct. Further guidance on whistleblowing is set out in the Civil Service Management Code and the Directory of Civil Service Guidance.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of days likely to be taken to *(a)* deliver general election ballot papers to and *(b)* return to the relevant returning officer ballot papers completed by members of the armed forces serving in Afghanistan to the relevant polling station. [310488]

Bill Rammell: No specific estimate has been made for the number of days likely to be taken to deliver and return general election ballot papers from members of the armed forces serving in Afghanistan to the relevant polling station.

However, we take very seriously the need to ensure service personnel are able to vote. The MOD is working closely with the Electoral Commission and the Ministry of Justice to help service personnel understand their options for registering to vote and to support their participation in the forthcoming elections. We advise service personnel serving abroad to vote by proxy.

Air Force

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 15 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 801-02, on future defence programmes, what assessment has been made of the effects on the Royal Air Force's elements at readiness strategy of the reduction in Tornado and Harrier squadrons. [309282]

Bill Rammell: An analysis of defence priorities was carried out which concluded it was possible to drawdown the overall size of our Fast Jet Forces earlier than expected. As a result of this analysis, it was decided to make a reduction in the size of the Harrier force by one squadron and therefore close RAF Cottesmore and consolidate the Harrier force at RAF Wittering.

Reducing the size of the Harrier force earlier than planned will not affect current operations, as the Tornado GR4 (the aircraft that replaced Harrier on Op HERRICK earlier this year) is proving to be extremely effective in Afghanistan.

As announced on 15 December, we plan to reduce our Tornado and Harrier force by a further one or two squadrons but decisions on the make-up of our future force will be taken in the defence review.

The MOD does not comment on the state of readiness of its force elements as this would constitute a risk to operational security.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what percentage of his Department's housing stock is void or uninhabited; [310250]

(2) how many void *(a)* single living and *(b)* service family accommodation units his Department has in (i) the UK and (ii) overseas. [310251]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 11 January 2010]:* The latest number of void Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties in the UK and overseas are:

	Location	
	UK (as at 4 January 2010)	*Overseas (as at December 2009)*
Total number of SFA	49,828	15,392
Number of void	7,889	2.461
As a percentage	15.8	16

Properties are void for various reasons, such as that they are awaiting routine moves of service personnel, improvement or modernisation work, demolition or disposal. While the Department is working hard to reduce the number of voids, there will always be a need for a management margin of properties to ensure they are available for service families.

In 2008, the proportion of void SFA worldwide reached 21 per cent. Although extremely challenging, the MOD is driving hard to reduce the percentage of voids to the target management margin of 10 per cent. by 2012.

Void Single Living Accommodation is defined as those bed-spaces which are available but not currently required for occupation by single service personnel. The most recent figures we have (December 2008) indicate that of the available 145,000 bed-spaces worldwide, some 18,000 (12 per cent.) were void. Of these some 13,000 (9 per cent.) were in the UK and 5,000 (3 per cent.) overseas.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on *(a)* building and *(b)* upkeep of armed forces' housing in each service in each year since 1996. [310254]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 11 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 695W. The majority of the building of new Service Family Accommodation (SFA) since 1996 has been through Private Finance Initiatives. This has seen 1,391 new houses built by the Private Sector in Great Britain (GB) since 1998. The estimated capital value of these houses was some £212 million. Annual payments are being made to the contractors over the life of the contracts ranging from 20 to 30 years.

In addition, the Department has directly invested in both the new build and major refurbishment of SFA. Due to the changed contractual arrangements and transfer of responsibility between various parts of the Ministry of Defence (MOD), expenditure in GB can be provided only on a consistent basis back to 2001-02.

		£ million
	Capital expenditure	*Maintenance and upgrade*
2001-02	25.3	123.0
2002-03	25.5	92.0
2003-04	25.2	103.0
2004-05	12.1	91.6
2005-06	28.0	109.2
2006-07	3.9	134.9
2007-08	1.9	157.3
2008-09	1.1	148.9

Expenditure elsewhere in the world has been through a large number of contractual arrangements managed throughout the MOD and the information could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

The housing stock is not managed on a single service basis.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the NIITEK Husky Mine Detection System. [310489]

Mr. Quentin Davies: While it is planned to assess the NIITEK Husky Mine Detection System as part of a wider assessment, I cannot go into the specific details as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice the operational security of our armed forces.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the armed forces have a requirement for a vehicle-mounted mine detection system. [310490]

Mr. Quentin Davies: A range of equipment is in service to counter the threat from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and mines, but no single piece of equipment can provide complete protection. While it is impossible to protect troops from every eventuality, we do everything possible to tackle the risks posed by IEDs, both in terms of equipment capability, but also the critical areas of tactics and training. I cannot go into the specific details of technical solutions, such as electronic counter-measures, as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice the operational security of our armed forces.

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310532]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Within Defence, the civil office estate is defined as that which is capable of being shared with other Government Departments. Information in respect of these offices will take some time to collect and verify. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Other office space outside this definition includes facilities within armed forces establishments and buildings. This information is not recorded and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many planned visits by Ministers in his Department within the UK were cancelled within 72 hours of the visit taking place in the last 12 months; and what the planned venue or venues were for each such visit. [309880]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Ministerial visits are made on the basis that they are provisional and subject to parliamentary and Government business. It is not normal practice of Government to report on cancelled visits.

Departmental Empty Property

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many properties owned by his Department had been unused for between one and five years in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* the UK on the latest date for which figures are available. [310650]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of all properties of all types on the Ministry of Defence (MOD) estate that are unused and the length of time each has been so is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Further to my answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 828W, we have been able to assemble some details of void living accommodation. The following table details Service Family Accommodation (SFA) in the UK that has been unused for between one and five years. It has not been possible separately to identify SFA in England. The majority of these properties are owned by Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL) and are leased to the Department.

Number of SFA properties void between one and five years as at 12 January 2010

	Number
England and Wales	1,784
Scotland	173
UK total (including NI)	2,077

SFA properties that have been void for the longest periods are those that are mainly held awaiting large future redeployments of personnel, pending return to AHL or awaiting demolition, or where decisions on the future of MOD sites have yet to be made. SFA may also be void where there is likely to be a long-term (rather than short-term) need for SFA in that area or where major modernisation or upgrade work is to be carried out.

In those areas where void SFA is required in the long-term but not in the short to medium-term, the Department is actively seeking arrangements with local authorities, housing associations and private landlords to temporarily sub let properties.

In 2008 the proportion of void SFA reached 21 per cent. Although extremely challenging, the MOD is driving hard to reduce the percentage of voids to the target management margin of 10 per cent. by 2012.

Terrorism

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people are being detained by UK authorities *(a)* under suspicion of and *(b)* charged with terrorist offences in military operational theatres. [306923]

Bill Rammell: Members of the UK armed forces detain personnel only in Afghanistan. As of 31 December 2009, 15 people were held in detention by UK armed forces in Afghanistan. The UK is not responsible for charging detainees; this is the responsibility of the Afghanistan authorities once they are transferred from UK custody.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Low-carbon Technologies

15. **Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions have taken place between his Department and the Department for Energy and Climate Change on policy to support companies developing low-carbon technologies. [310591]

Mr. McFadden: In July last year, together with the Department for Energy and Climate Change, we published the UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy, which provides a strategic view of Britain's low-carbon strengths and opportunities for UK-based companies. It included the first investments from £405 million allocated at Budget to low-carbon industries. In December's pre-Budget report, we committed a further £150 million for low-carbon investment. This money will go to sectors such as wind and wave power, low-carbon vehicles and green manufacturing.

Further Education

16. **Mr. Chaytor:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps the Government plan to take to encourage mature students and part-time students to undertake courses; and if he will make a statement. [310592]

Mr. Lammy: We continue to support a wide range of flexible provision including foundation degrees, e-learning, Train to Gain and employer co-funding to increase participation among mature and part-time students.

Sony Ericsson: Coventry

17. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Sony Ericsson on its decision to close a research and development facility in Coventry. [310593]

Mr. McFadden: I met with local MPs on this issue before Christmas. The Secretary of State has discussed the closure of Ansty Park at the highest level in Ericsson, probed the company's plans, and pressed it to consider any possible collaborations which might preserve at least some employment at the site.

National Minimum Wage

18. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy that the standard national minimum wage rate applies to all people of working age. [310594]

Mr. McFadden: The independent Low Pay Commission advises Government on the national minimum wage and in their most recent report they confirmed that youth rates were justified, but in line with the recommendation of the Low Pay Commission we have agreed to bring 21-year-olds on to the adult rate. This will happen from October this year.

Grocery Ombudsman

19. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department plans to announce its decision on the Competition Commission's recommendation on a grocery supply chain ombudsman. [310595]

21. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when his Department plans to announce its decision on the Competition Commission's recommendation on a grocery supply chain ombudsman. [310597]

Kevin Brennan: My Department published the Government's response to the Competition Commission's recommendation for the creation of a grocery supply chain ombudsman on 13 January.

Government have accepted the need for independent enforcement of the groceries supply code of practice (GSCOP) and plan to consult in February on who that body might be and the powers that it might have.

Copies of the Government's response have been placed in the Library of the House and it is available on the BIS website.

Horizon

20. **Jacqui Smith:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received form sub-postmasters on the effects on them of use by the Post Office of the Horizon computer system; and if he will make a statement. [310596]

Mr. McFadden: I have, in recent months, received a small number of representations from hon. Members, and one direct from a sub-postmaster, about the Horizon computer system. Issues relating to the Horizon system are operational matters for Post Office Ltd., which investigates all concerns raised by sub-postmasters about Horizon and will continue to do so if any are raised.

South Devon: Regeneration

22. **Mr. Sanders:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on Government policy for economic regeneration in South Devon. [310598]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on economic regeneration including that in South Devon. In addition I meet with Regional Development Agencies on a regular basis, including meetings with the Regional Minister for the South West, and I visited the South West in September.

Muireann McLaughlin

23. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to respond to the recommendations made by Sheriff Mackie of Alloa Sheriff Court in his judgment on the fatal accident inquiry of Muireann McLaughlin published in May 2009. [310599]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has considered seriously all the recommendations made by Sheriff Mackie. We feel his recommendations regarding regulations and labelling are more than adequately dealt with under the Machinery Directive as well as the General Product Safety Directive. The recommendation relating to raising public awareness about the potential hazards internal blind cords can cause is being taken forward with the blind and shutter industry and others. The Department does not intend to respond formally to the sheriff.

Departmental Legislation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills what criminal offences have been *(a)* created and *(b)* abolished by secondary legislation sponsored by his Department and its predecessor since 1 May 2008. [307806]

Mr. McFadden: 229 statutory instruments made by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and its predecessors, have come into force since 1 May 2009. To manually assess these to establish what criminal offences have been created or abolished would involve disproportionate cost.

Mergers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many mergers of companies have taken place in *(a)* North Yorkshire and *(b)* England in each of the last three years. [309524]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated January 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking 'how many mergers of companies have taken place in (a) North Yorkshire and (b) England in each of the last three years' (309524).

The Office for National Statistics collects information on UK Mergers and Acquisitions through quarterly surveys looking at both cross border and domestic transactions. Unfortunately these surveys are only able to provide data for the UK as a whole, meaning that regional analysis is not possible.

Data on the number of domestic (UK companies acquiring other UK companies) and inward (foreign companies acquiring UK companies) transactions from q1 2007 to q3 2009 are provided below.

Number of inward and domestic mergers and acquisitions (over 50 per cent. ordinary shares), United Kingdom, Q1 2007 to Q3 2009

Reference period	*Number of inward acquisitions*	*Number of domestic acquisitions*
2007		
Q1	78	291
Q2	105	323
Q3	113	349
Q4	94	295
2007 Q1-4 total	390	1,258
2008		
Q1	113	265
Q2	85	298
Q3	84	197
Q4	69	220
2008 Q1-4 total	351	980
2009		
Q1	47	209
Q2	37	127
Q3	32	115
2009 Q1-3 total	116	451

Renewable Energy: Employment

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have been employed in the renewable energy sector in each year since 2003; and what recent assessment he has made of the potential for the creation of jobs consequent on the Government's steps to encourage the use of renewable energy. [309966]

Mr. Kidney: I have been asked to reply.

The renewable energy sectors are new and emerging sectors that are not explicitly identified within the traditional statistical classifications.

Although there will be some displacement as we restructure our economy, the Renewable Energy Strategy will create significant job opportunities. Based on information in a report produced by Innovas for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) in 2009, 'Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services: an industry analysis', we estimate that in 2007/08 up to 390,000 people were employed in the renewable energy sector, including bioenergy employment.

Based on Innovas projections and Labour Force Survey data, we estimate that the Renewable Energy Strategy, combined with a growing market for renewable energy across Europe and globally, could increase UK employment in the renewable energy sector by up to a further 500,000 people by 2020.

Vocational Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills how much has been spent from the public purse on *(a)* the Skills Pledge and *(b)* the "Our future. It's in our hands" campaign to date. [307782]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not hold this information. Geoff Russell, the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) acting chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with further information.

Letter from Geoff Russell, dated 23 December 2009:

I am writing in reply to your recent Parliamentary Question that asked the Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, how much has been spent from the public purse on (a) the Skills Pledge campaign and (b) the 'Our future. It's in our hands' campaign.

Both the Skills Pledge and the 'Our Future. It's in our hands' campaigns commenced in 2007.

1. The Skills Pledge

The Skills Pledge is a voluntary, public commitment made by an organisation to invest in the skills of its workforce. It's a promise that the employer will work to realise the potential of all their employees by developing their basic skills and working towards relevant, valuable qualifications.

The amount of monies spent by the Learning and Skills Council on the public promotion of the Skills Pledge through advertising, Public Relations and online marketing, including associated production costs, since 2007 totals: £592,454 (excluding VAT)

2. The Skills Campaign - 'Our Future. It's in our hands

The Skills campaign was designed as a three year campaign to positively change attitudes for skills, where young people, adults and employers demand skills and qualifications because they recognise the social and economic benefits they bring for themselves and their businesses.

The amount of monies spent by The Learning and Skills Council on the public promotion of the 'Our future. It's in our hands' campaign through advertising, Public Relations and online marketing including associated production costs, since 2007 is: £14.843m (excluding VAT).

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cold Weather Payments

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which weather stations are used in *(a)* Orkney and *(b)* Shetland to determine cold weather payments. [310733]

Helen Goodman: Kirkwall weather station covers Orkney and Lerwick weather station covers Shetland.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether she has had recent discussions with the Met Office on the inclusion of the wind chill factor in the methodology for calculating cold weather payments; and if she will make a statement; [310734]

(2) what recent assessment her Department has made of the merits of taking account of the wind chill factor in the methodology for calculating cold weather payments; and if she will make a statement. [310735]

Helen Goodman: The cold weather payment scheme does not take account of wind chill factors, and there are currently no plans to change this.

Compensation: Accidents

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment she has made of the effect of an award of accident compensation on entitlement to *(a)* state benefits and *(b)* state pension; and if she will make a statement. [304306]

Jonathan Shaw: There is a capital disregard for personal injury payments in income support, jobseeker's allowance, employment and support allowance, and in housing benefit and council tax benefit for claimants who have not reached the minimum qualifying age for pension credit.

The disregard applies indefinitely to the value of a trust fund where the personal injury payment has been put into a trust and also where there is the right to receive payments from the trust. Payments made from the trust would be treated as income and disregarded in full when they are received. This disregard only applies to personal injury payments if they were made in respect of the claimant or their current partner. Where the claimant receives a personal injury payment made in respect of a deceased partner the disregard does not apply.

Where a personal injury payment has not been put into trust it is disregarded for 52 weeks from the date it is paid to the claimant or their partner, or until they no longer have any part of the payment left, whichever date is sooner. Any subsequent payments made as a result of the same personal injury (for example, where instalments are made) would not have a separate 52 week disregard but would come under the original disregard period.

The capital value of any personal injury payments held under the Court of Protection, and the right to receive funds from that payment, are disregarded. Payments not in a trust and not held under control of the Court of Protection are treated as capital.

Entitlement to state pension is not affected by income or capital. For pension credit, and housing benefit and council tax benefit for those who have reached the minimum qualifying age for pension credit, any personal injury payments made for the claimant or their partner are disregarded indefinitely.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her Department's expenditure as a proportion of the UK's gross domestic product was in each year since 1997. [301753]

Jim Knight: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was formed in 2001 from the Department of Social Security (DSS), the Employment Service (ES) and parts of the former Department for Education and Employment (DfEE), and information since the creation of the Department is shown in the following table.

	Gross domestic product[1] *(£ billion)*	*DWP total expenditure*[2] *(£ billion)*	*Ratio total: GDP (percentage)*
2001-02	1,031.5	107.6	10.4
2002-03	1,092.1	112.1	10.3
2003-04	1,157.4	108.7	9.4
2004-05	1,214.7	118.9	9.8
2005-06	1,270.8	123.6	9.7
2006-07	1,346.2	126.7	9.4
2007-08	1,418.2	133.3	9.4
2008-09	1,434.9	142.7	9.9

Sources:

[1] Gross Domestic Product (GDP): provided by Office for National Statistics (published via the HM Treasury website).

[2] DWP: Departmental Report 2009 and 2007 and Departmental Benefit Expenditure Tables.

Departmental Work Experience

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many graduate internships her Department has provided in the last 12 months; how many such internships were subsequently withdrawn; for what reasons; and if she will make a statement. [310432]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 12 January 2010]:* DWP has advertised 82 Graduate Internship positions via the Graduate Talent Pool website since the Programme started in July 2009.

Three positions have had to be withdrawn. Two positions were withdrawn as internal candidates filled the positions, while the other was withdrawn due to lack of funding.

Disability Living Allowance: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in (1) the Leeds city area were claiming disability living allowance in each of the last five years; [306999]

(2) Leeds West constituency were claiming disability living allowance in each of the last five years. [307000]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the table.

Disability living allowance, cases in payment in Leeds local authority area and Leeds West parliamentary constituency

			May		
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Leeds Local Authority area	32,710	33,230	34,050	34,790	35,980
Leeds West Parliamentary Constituency	4,200	4,340	4,450	4,580	4,790

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Cases in payment show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Driving

Dr. Ladyman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to ensure that staff who drive *(a)* a vehicle for which (i) her Department and (ii) one of its executive agencies is responsible have valid driving licences and *(b)* their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) her Department and (B) one of its executive agencies have valid driving licences and insurance; what guidance is issued to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties; what steps are taken to monitor compliance with that guidance; what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties; and whether such reports are investigated. [302176]

Jim Knight: In respect of staff driving a vehicle for which (i) the Department (ii) one of the Department's executive agencies is responsible:

> Before authority is given to use such a vehicle, the employee's driving licence will be checked by their line manager to ensure they have a full current licence which is valid for the vehicle they will be using.

The manager must also ensure that there are no periods of disqualification in force. Details of the check must be recorded. The check should be carried out at least once per year. The manager should record details of the check as follows:

Driver name;

Date of licence check;

Disqualifications, if any; and

Date next check due.

Employees with endorsements for theft of vehicle or taking without consent (unauthorised taking) are not given permission to drive such vehicles.

An employee cannot drive any such vehicle if they are currently disqualified from driving or their licence is currently withdrawn.

Where staff who drive their own vehicles in the course of their official duties for (A) the Department and (B) one of the executive agencies for which the Department is responsible, the manager must ensure that the insurance conditions for the vehicle are satisfied.

Guidance to those staff in respect of road safety while carrying out official duties, is published on the Department's intranet to inform drivers of road safety while carrying out official duties, and, for drivers of the fleet of leased vehicles provided for the use of staff of the Department and its executive agencies, additional road safety guidance is provided on the leasing company's dedicated website.

Line managers must satisfactorily complete a work-related road safety checklist with an individual member of staff before approving an individual's business journey for the first time. The line manager must review the checklist annually as a minimum.

In respect of what requirements there are on such staff to report to their line managers accidents in which they are involved while driving in the course of their official duties, drivers must report all accidents involving vehicles while on official business to their line managers.

In addition, where accidents occur in a vehicle provided for the driver, the driver must report the accident to the vehicle provider.

In terms of whether such reports are investigated, in the case of vehicles provided for the driver, vehicle providers have in place their own mechanisms for accident and claims management.

In the case of staff driving their own vehicles, the staff member's own insurance company would handle accident and claims.

Employment Services: Autism

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to ensure that Jobcentre Plus makes adequate provision to meet the requirements of people with autism who use its services. [304203]

Jonathan Shaw: Jobcentre Plus advisers support autistic people who are seeking employment and help with their applications for benefit. Where the customer has more complex support needs they can be referred to a Disability Employment Adviser. The Disability Employment Adviser will work with the customer to agree an action plan to help get them into work. They can advise on suitable employment opportunities and approach employers on the customer's behalf. If more in depth support is needed they can arrange for an occupational health assessment and help to be provided by a work psychologist.

Jobcentre Plus also has a number of specialist programmes that help disabled people, including people with autism, move into paid work, some of which are only accessible via the Disability Employment Adviser. These include Work Preparation, Residential Training and WORKSTEP (a programme of supported employment).

People with autism going into paid work may be able to get support from Access to Work. The Access to Work team can provide practical advice and support to disabled people and their employers to help them overcome work related obstacles resulting from disability. It does this through a system of grants towards the cost of providing support, such as a job coach to settle an autistic customer into work. The customer can also be supported at work by Access to Work paying for awareness training on autism to be delivered to the customer's work colleagues.

The Disability Employment Adviser will be able to put the customer in touch with the relevant Access to Work site which takes applications or Access to Work information and contact details can be found on the Jobcentre Plus and Directgov websites.

Jobcentre Plus has had contact with the National Autistic Society and has provided a range of information including contact centre scripts and details about the training advisers receive.

Ice and Snow

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if she will hold a consultation on the merits of using unemployed people to clear snow from outside the homes of disabled people; and if she will make a statement. [310654]

Jim Knight: The Government have already put in place a number of programmes in which unemployed people undertake work experience and volunteering placements that deliver benefit to the community. However, the overriding aim of these programmes is always to provide activities that will equip jobseekers with the right skills and experience to help them move back into work.

Through our New Deal programmes, many thousands of jobseekers have been involved in activities that have delivered benefit to their local community or the environment. The Community Task Force, due to be launched at the end of this month as part of the Young Person's Guarantee, will match young unemployed people to work experience placements that deliver community benefit.

And in April last year, we launched a scheme to match jobseekers who have been unemployed for six months to relevant work-focussed volunteering opportunities, many of which also deliver environmental or community benefit.

We do not specify the exact nature of the placements that should be delivered through these programmes, rather ask providers to match jobseekers with placements that will best equip them to return to work. It is possible that activities such as snow clearance could be included in a programme of community works at a local level, but this would depend on local conditions and providers' view of the activities that best suit their client group.

Pathways to Work

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary contracted and *(b)* sub-contracted employment support providers have withdrawn providing employment support services under the Pathways to Work Programme in each of the smallest geographical units for which figures are available since the programme's inception; and if she will make a statement. [310511]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 12 January 2010]*: The Department for Work and Pensions contracts with prime contractors. It is for them to manage the relationship with sub-contractors on the basis of their commercial judgement and their view of what best meets the needs of customers. As Provider-led Pathways to Work develops, we would expect to see some changes in sub-contracting arrangements in the light of experience and in response to changing market conditions.

No prime contractors have withdrawn from delivering Pathways to Work provision. There were 79 sub-contractors delivering Pathways to Work when contracts were let. Some of these organisations were sub-contracting to more than one prime contractor and some were delivering in more than one location.

Of the original 79 sub-contractors involved in delivering Pathways to Work, six (8 per cent) sub-contractors have withdrawn from delivery. Four of these sub-contractors were delivering in the Kent, Surrey and Sussex areas. The remaining two sub-contractors were delivering in Devon and Cornwall and the Black Country districts respectively.

Social Security Benefits

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 786W, on social security benefits, how many of the households cited in the answer are in *(a)* socially-rented, *(b)* privately-owned and *(c)* privately-rented housing. [308810]

Helen Goodman: Of the 4 million households in England where all of the benefit units were in receipt of at least one of income support, council tax benefit, housing benefit, jobseeker's allowance, or pension credit:

2.2 million live in socially rented housing;

1.1 million live in housing they own themselves or are purchasing with a mortgage; and

0.7 million live in privately rented housing.

Source:

Family Resources Survey 2007/08. This survey is known to under-record benefit receipt so the estimate presented here should be treated with caution. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 0.1 million.

Social Security Benefits: Autism

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Minister in her Department is responsible for policy on *(a)* services provided by Jobcentre Plus for and *(b)* the eligibility for benefits of people with autism. [310783]

Jonathan Shaw: The Secretary of State has overall responsibility for all policy on benefits and services provided by this Department and its agencies for people with autism.

As the Minister for Disabled People, I am responsible for ensuring that all disabled people, including people with autism, are able to access the appropriate help. Jim Knight, the Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform, has ministerial responsibility for Jobcentre Plus, and the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh, is responsible for its administration.

Social Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the terms "equivalent level of support" and "no cash losers" used by her Department are regarded as synonymous for the purposes the proposals in the Government's Social Care Green Paper. [307668]

Jonathan Shaw: As we said in the Green Paper, if we do reform disability benefits for older people, anyone receiving an affected benefit at the time of reform would continue to receive an equivalent level of support and protection. We have confirmed that this means they would not experience a cash loss as a result of any such reforms. This is consistent with our Green Paper position.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment she has made of the effect of the Government's policy of no cash losers on the reforms proposed in the Social Care Green Paper; [307670]

(2) whether a person in receipt of *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance prior to the introduction of the proposals contained in the Government's Social Care Green Paper would continue to receive the full social care entitlement following the introduction of those proposals; [307672]

(3) what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of implementing the Government's policy of no cash losers in respect of the Social Care Green Paper; [307673]

(4) what estimate she has made of the number of people who would be eligible for *(a)* attendance allowance and *(b)* disability living allowance on existing criteria who would cease to receive assistance under each proposal set out in her Department's Green Paper on Social Care; [307679]

(5) pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions of 8 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 206, what plans the Government has to disburse attendance allowance and disability living allowance or a cash equivalent through local authorities. [307683]

Jonathan Shaw: We have not taken any decisions on whether some benefits for older people will be reformed in the new care and support system. If disability benefits for older people are reformed as part of the National Care Service, those receiving the affected benefits at the time of reform would continue to receive the same level of cash support. We will give more details about the National Care Service offer in due course.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between the group of people who receive (i) attendance allowance and (ii) disability living allowance and groups of people who would receive support under the proposals in the Government's Social Care Green Paper. [307677]

Jonathan Shaw: We have not taken any decisions on whether some benefits for older people will be reformed in the new care and support system. If we do decide to integrate some benefits for older people into the new care and support system, we will provide further details in our White Paper.

The Personal Social Services Research Unit, which is part of the London School of Economics, has been commissioned by the Department of Health to conduct detailed financial modelling of the new care and support system. Their methodology and interim report was published on their website in July:

http://www.pssru.ac.uk/pdf/dp2644.pdf

and in the impact assessment published alongside the Green Paper. This work is ongoing. A copy of the report has been placed in the Library.

Unemployment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps her Department is taking to reduce unemployment. [304302]

Jim Knight: We are taking decisive steps to reduce unemployment. As part of the Government's commitment to support people into work, £5 billion has been made available since November 2008 to offer extra support to jobseekers to help them find work at all stages of their claim.

The Department has quadrupled the available funding for the Rapid Response Service, which provides advice and support to customers facing redundancy. Also, we launched an enhanced offer to all jobseekers at day one of their claim which includes targeted group sessions in jobsearch techniques, access to local employment partnership vacancies and help with the costs of getting back to work through the Adviser Discretionary Fund.

At the six month point in a claim, all jobseekers now have access to a substantial package of extra support including recruitment subsidies, work-focussed training places, volunteering opportunities and support to become self-employed.

If an individual remains on benefits after 12 months they will be referred to the provider-led flexible new deal programme (currently being delivered in half of the country) and will receive tailored, responsive support to help them get into work. In areas where the flexible new deal is yet to be introduced, customers will access more intensive back to work support through the original new deal programmes.

The Government have also targeted significant new resource on young people in recognition of the particular challenges young people face during a recession. On 29 July, the Government launched a campaign called Backing Young Britain, calling on businesses, charities and government bodies to create more opportunities for young people, such as internships, work experience placements, links to mentors and apprenticeships. Almost 12,000 graduate internships have already become available and thousands more opportunities will follow early in 2010. Over 360 organisations are supporting the campaign, with numbers growing all the time.

Furthermore, on 15 December 2009, we announced in the White Paper "Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment" that from January 2010, we will introduce a stronger Young Person's Guarantee, so that all 18 to 24-year-olds who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for six months will be guaranteed a job, work placement or work-related skills training. In addition, we will offer all young people access to a named personal adviser at the start of their claim and build in more time with an adviser throughout their claim.

As part of that guarantee, the Future Jobs Fund will create 170,000 jobs: 120,000 jobs for young people, and the remaining 50,000 jobs for people of all ages in unemployment hotspots throughout the country. These are real paid jobs—this is job creation, not an employment programme. The first five bidding rounds are already creating up to 98,000 jobs and the first jobs started in October 2009.

Further measures to tackle unemployment were also announced in the White Paper. These include:

> from early 2010, access to the self-employment credit will be available from 13 weeks of unemployment;
>
> for customers aged 50 and over, we will provide new specialist back to work support by using external providers to address their specific needs; widen access to work trials and ensure that those with significant barriers to employment get early access to the six month offer;
>
> an enhancement of the better off in work credit, so that it will ensure that long- term benefit recipients will be at least £40 a week better off in work. Implementation of the new credit will begin in October 2010; and
>
> a commitment to implement from October 2011 an improved earnings disregard for lone parents with children aged less than seven—a new tapered disregard will be tested in the progression to work pathfinders.

Unemployment: Graduates

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what her Department's estimate is of the number of people who graduated from university in 2009 and who are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority in the North West; and if she will make a statement. [310096]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change: International Co-operation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the role played by *(a)* China and *(b)* the US at the Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen in December 2009; and if he will publish each document submitted by the UK to other national delegations during the conference. [309999]

Joan Ruddock: Both China and the US were active participants at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit and were among the countries represented in the discussions and drafting of the Copenhagen Accord. The UK negotiates as part of the EU and therefore all formal submissions we have made to the UNFCCC have been as part of the EU. The EU made one submission during the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference—the EU presented its fifth National Communication under the UNFCCC on 7 December. A copy is available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Fines

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what powers *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) have to impose administrative penalties; what the statutory basis is for each such power; and how much (i) his Department and its predecessor and (ii) each of its NDPBs have recovered in administrative penalties in each year since the inception of his Department. [309261]

Joan Ruddock: Under the Gas [illegible]986 and the Electricity Act 1995, Ofgem is able to impose penalties upon licence holders who breach licence conditions and under the Competition Act 1998 it may impose penalties for breaches of competition law. Details of the penalties Ofgem has imposed on individual companies under these provisions can be found on their website. The following table details the total value of penalties paid since these provisions were introduced in 2000.

	Total value of fines paid (£)
2002	2,000,000
2003	200,000
2004	2.100,000
2005	0
2006	0
2007	0
2008	[1]25,000 plus 41,600,000
2009	3,800,000

[1] Reduced on appeal to the CAT to £30,000,000; pending decision by court of appeal.

These sums are paid into the consolidated fund.

This apart, the request would involve disproportionate cost to answer in its entirety.

Offenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many employees of his Department have been convicted of a criminal offence of each type in each year since 1997. [308511]

Joan Ruddock: DECC was formed on 3 October 2008. There are no records of any staff having been convicted of any criminal offences since the Department's formation.

Renewables Obligation

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the level of investment risk to companies participating in the construction of *(a)* non-offshore wind and *(b)* other renewable energy projects in circumstances in which the number of renewables obligation certificates (ROCs) to be allocated is not determined until the time of commissioning of a project; and for what reasons he decided that the number of ROCs to be allocated in respect of offshore wind projects should be determined at the construction stage. [305177]

Mr. Kidney: The number of ROCs to be allocated to any project is determined at the time of accreditation by Ofgem. In order to provide certainty to investors, wholesale revisions to the banding regime (ROCs/MWh for each technology) will only be made in accordance with a scheduled banding review. Details of any changes to banding levels following a scheduled banding review will be published 18 months before they will take effect.

In response to evidence of a significant increase in the costs of offshore wind projects reaching financial close, we conducted an early review of the banding level for offshore wind. As part of the review process, we consulted during summer 2009 on two proposals for providing an uplift in support for offshore wind projects: one based around the timing of contract-signing and completing a foundation in the water, and an alternative proposal based around accreditation. These proposals were intended to ensure that any additional support was directed at those projects which we believed would not otherwise be able to proceed. In light of responses to the consultation, we decided to determine eligibility based on accreditation, in line with established RO policy for all other technologies.

Wind Power: Noise

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 636W, on wind power: noise, for what reasons he endorses the current maximum permitted night-time noise limit from onshore wind turbines. [310705]

Mr. Kidney: As stated in my answer of 7 January 2010, the 43 decibel night-time limit in the ETSU-R-97 guidance is derived from the 35 dB(A) sleep disturbance criteria referred to in Planning Policy Guidance 24 (Planning and Noise).

ETSU-R-97 describes a framework for the measurement of wind farm noise and gives indicative noise levels thought to offer a reasonable degree of protection to wind farm neighbours, without placing unreasonable restrictions on wind farm development or adding unduly to the costs and administrative burdens on wind farm developers or local authorities. The suggested noise limits in ETSU and their reasonableness have been evaluated with regard to regulating the development of wind energy in the public interest. We have no robust new evidence to suggest that the current guidance is not achieving its aim.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what advertising campaigns his Department has been responsible for in each of the last three years; which such campaigns *(a)* commenced and *(b)* continued in 2009-10; and what the cost of each such campaign has been. [310208]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not been responsible for any advertising campaigns in the UK in the last three years. DFID works in over 100 countries across the world and advertising can play a significant role in achieving development programme objectives including the promotion of health issues. It is not possible to disaggregate these costs from development programme expenditure without incurring disproportionate costs.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on *(a)* print, *(b)* online, *(c)* television and *(d)* radio advertising in each of the last five years; how much has been spent on advertising in 2009-10 to date; and what percentage of advertising expenditure in each year was managed by the Central Office of Information. [310232]

Mr. Michael Foster: DFID works in over 100 countries across the world and advertising can play a significant role in achieving development programme objectives including the promotion of health issues. It is not possible to disaggregate these costs from development programme expenditure without incurring disproportionate costs.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) whether any *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format sought from his Department by the Iraq Inquiry have not been disclosed owing to the Government's obligations to foreign governments or international bodies; and if he will make a statement; [310190]

(2) how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other types of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification the Iraq Inquiry has requested from his Department; and if he will make a statement; [310189]

(3) how many and what proportion of the *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification requested by the Iraq Inquiry have been provided to it by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [310192]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 840-41W, by the Minister of State for the Cabinet Office (Angela E. Smith), who has answered on behalf of all Departments.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

CAFCASS

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many forms Family Court advisers engaged by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service are required to complete in respect of a *(a)* private and *(b)* public law case; [307425]

(2) what change in caseload the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service experienced between June 2008 and December 2009; and if he will make a statement; [307426]

(3) what progress the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service has made in agreeing with the relevant trade unions a new workload guideline; and if he will make a statement; [307427]

(4) what the average caseload was for Family Court Advisors in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in London on the latest date for which figures are available; and what the average caseload was for such advisors on 31 March 2008; [307443]

(5) what the outcomes were of the time recording exercise undertaken during April 2008 on the time being spent on public and private family law cases; [307472]

(6) what the average payment made to front-line agency *(a)* staff and *(b)* managers employed by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service was in the latest period for which figures are available; [307473]

(7) how many staff of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service have been disciplined because of poor performance in the last 12 months; [307474]

(8) how many complaints the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service has received from staff in relation to bullying in the last 12 months; [307475]

(9) what classification the 2004 Workload Agreement of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service gave of a reasonable time to complete a private law case; [307477]

(10) whether family court advisors in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service have been issued with guidance on making telephone calls rather than making family visits in respect of certain cases; [307478]

(11) how many *(a)* individual and *(b)* collective staff grievance procedures at the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service were outstanding on the latest date for which figures are available; [307479]

(12) how many agency staff the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service has employed in the last 12 months; [307480]

(13) whether staff of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service have been issued with guidance on reducing costs in relation to *(a)* travel and *(b)* conducting interviews in people's homes; [307481]

(14) how much the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service has spent on agency staff in each of its regions in 2009-10; [307483]

(15) how many staff of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service have been issued with a performance improvement notice in the last 12 months; [307485]

(16) how many Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service staff have been the subject of a quality improvement review in the last 12 months; [307486]

(17) how many *(a)* family court advisors and *(b)* self-employed contractors have ceased to work for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in the last 12 months; [307488]

(18) how many staff of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service have been the subject of formal performance and conduct procedures in the last 12 months; [307490]

(19) what the average caseload was for a Family Court Adviser in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service on 31 March 2009; [307641]

(20) whether the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service has ceased to commission self-employed contractors; [307642]

(21) whether Family Court Advisers in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service have been directed not to attend local authority review meetings. [307643]

Dawn Primarolo: These are operational matters for CAFCASS. I have asked the chief executive of CAFCASS, Anthony Douglas, to respond by letter to the hon. Member. A copy of the letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for how many months ContactPoint has operated without its children missing education function; and what steps have been take to restore that function. [309715]

Dawn Primarolo: ContactPoint's Children Missing Education (CME) report function is working properly and is available to all local authorities in England.

On 2 November 2009, the Department raised an issue with the supplier of the ContactPoint system, following the identification by a local authority that it could no longer access the CME report function. This issue was raised using the standard problem resolution process and the functionality was restored on 18 December 2009.

Free School Meals

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local authority areas in each region have been selected for comprehensive free school meals pilot schemes. [309684]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: As part of the pre-Budget report, the Chancellor has announced an extension to the universal free school meal pilots for primary children so that there is a pilot in each English region. No decisions have been taken yet as to which local authority areas will be selected. He also announced a phased roll out of free school meals to primary children from low income families, who are in receipt of work-related benefits, starting with 50 per cent. of eligible children in September 2010, and with full roll out in 2011.

Three free school meal pilots started last term. Durham and Newham are piloting universal free school meals for all primary pupils. Wolverhampton is piloting extended eligibility to primary and secondary pupils whose parents are on working tax credit and have an income up to £16,040.

Gifted Children: Leeds

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils in Leeds North West constituency have participated in gifted and talented programmes in each year since 2000. [309386]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The Department does not collect data about participation in gifted and talented programmes. Through the school census schools are asked to confirm the number of gifted and talented pupils they have identified.

Health Education: Sex

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* mechanisms will be used and *(b)* timetable has been set for introducing new guidance on the teaching of sex and relationships education. [309610]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We have announced our intention to issue revised guidance to schools on sex and relationships education in response to the recommendations of the steering group that led the Review of SRE in Schools. We plan to consult on the revised guidance in this year.

with a view to making it available to schools for the start of the next academic year. The guidance will offer advice to schools for implementing SRE under the current legislative arrangements and will be revised if needed, subject to the passage of the Children and Families Bill which seeks to make PSHE statutory.

National Safeguarding Delivery Unit: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* mechanisms and *(b)* performance measures are used to assess the effectiveness of the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit. [309717]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Safeguarding Delivery Unit (NSDU) published an interim progress report and work programme for 2009-10 on 18 December 2009 available at

> http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-01181-2009&

The NSDU reports progress against agreed milestones on a monthly basis to a cross-Government programme board of senior officials. The unit also reports into the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Families, Children, and Young People through a new ministerial sub-group comprising the Secretaries of State from DCSF, the Department of Health, the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office. This Ministerial sub-group meets quarterly with the Chief Adviser on the Safety of Children, Sir Roger Singleton, to monitor progress and tackle any barriers to joint working that might exist across safeguarding services.

The chief adviser on the Safety of Children is due to submit his first annual report by April 2010.

This will include commentary on the progress being made by the unit and the impact of work taken forward.

The unit has established a partnership network of around 100 key stakeholders and frontline professionals. This network provides collective experience and expertise at the frontline and enables the NSDU to secure direct input and feedback which will inform its future priorities. A further NSDU work programme will be published in spring 2010.

Ofsted: Public Appointments

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who is responsible for appointing the Children's Rights Director. [309654]

Dawn Primarolo: Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills is responsible for the appointment of the Children's Rights Director.

Personal Social and Health Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the criteria to be used by school governors to determine whether the teaching of personal, social, health and economic education under the provisions proposed in the Children, Schools and Families Bill reflects a reasonable range of religious, cultural and other perspectives. [309683]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: The legislation will introduce a set of guiding principles that govern the way in which the PSHE as a subject should be delivered. Schools Governors will be under a duty to ensure these principles act as safeguards against inappropriate teaching.

There is a wide range of perspectives on the teaching of PSHE but we believe that schools should have flexibility to tailor their approach to reflect: the ethos of the school; the views of parents and pupils; and the needs of individual and diverse nature of local communities, subject to covering the content prescribed in the statutory programmes of study.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what inspection criteria would be applied to the teaching of personal, social, health and economic education under the provisions proposed in the Children, Schools and Families Bill. [309711]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: We are not proposing any changes in the Children, Schools and Families Bill to the current arrangements for inspecting PSHE when it becomes statutory in September 2011, as this subject is already covered along with other subjects within Ofsted's existing statutory inspection framework.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he consulted governors of faith schools on the provisions proposed in the Children, Schools and Families Bill in relation to teaching of the personal, social, health and economic education curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4 in advance of the introduction of that Bill. [309713]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: In coming to the decision to make PSHE a statutory part of the curriculum we have taken into consideration a broad range of views from our stakeholders and this included Governors of faith schools.

The work that QCDA did throughout the consultation collated views from Governors based on-line surveys as well as through focus groups and mini-conferences.

In their responses Governors recognise that good quality PSHE, taught in a sensitive and appropriate way and with the proper safeguards in place (in line with the ethos and faith of the school) is vital in promoting the health and wellbeing of young people as they prepare to tackle the challenges of adult life.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to issue guidance to the governors of faith schools on the teaching of the personal, social, health and economic education curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4 under the provisions proposed in the Children, Schools and Families Bill. [309714]

Ms Diana R. Johnson: There is a provision within the Children, Schools and Families Bill that will allow the Secretary of State to issue any guidance by Order as part of statutory PSHE in September 2011.

Governors in faith schools currently have a statutory responsibility to take account of existing and revised guidance in particularly that relating to the provision of sex and relationship education.

Schools: Snow and Ice

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advice he has given to *(a)* schools and *(b)* education authorities on teachers using electronic communications to undertake distance teaching for pupils at schools closed because of inclement weather; and if he will make a statement. [310836]

Mr. Coaker: The Department published guidance, "Supporting Learning during Extended School Closures", in 2008, and made some minor amendments to it in 2009. The guidance can be found on the Department's teachernet website at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id-14642

The guidance was located within our guidance on pandemic flu. We added to our guidance on severe weather a link to this guidance in the first week of January 2010. We also sent an e-mail to all schools and local authorities that week reminding them of the guidance on severe weather.

Special Educational Needs: Expenditure

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the total cost to his Department was of educating children with special education needs in residential special schools in each local authority in England in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [309354]

Ms Diana R. Johnson *[holding answer 6 January 2010]:* The requested information is not collected centrally by the Department. However, during the 2009-10 financial year local authorities in England budgeted net expenditure of over £5.2 billion for the provision of education for children with special educational needs. It is not possible to identify how much of this £5.2 billion was for the total cost of educating children with special educational needs in residential special schools as the data are not collected in that way.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* projects and *(b)* units he expects to be built in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area under the Kickstart scheme round (A) 1 and (B) 2; and how much funding has been allocated to each area for each round. [309828]

John Healey: Full details on round one of the Kickstart scheme can be found on the Homes and Communities Agency's (HCA) website. Regional information on the short-listed projects from round two are also on HCA's website. These projects will now be subject to rigorous due diligence testing, and details on approved projects, by local authority area, will be available once this process is complete.

Affordable Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of funding allocated to the National Affordable Housing Programme for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12 has been spent. [309826]

John Healey: The Homes and Communities Agency will report in their annual report and financial statements spend through the National Affordable Housing Programme in 2009-10 after the end of the financial year. No expenditure has yet occurred in 2010-11 or 2011-12.

Affordable Housing: Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has allocated for affordable housing in Tamworth constituency in the next three years. [309677]

John Healey: The Department does not itself directly take steps to match demand for social rented housing in local authorities. We encourage authorities to assess the housing needs of their area as part of their strategic housing role and then work in partnership with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) with developers (using planning policies e.g. section 106 agreements) and local registered social landlords (RSLs) to deliver the required number of homes through our National Affordable Housing Programme (NAHP).

During the period 2008-11 this is expected to deliver a total of 123 affordable homes with over 70 of these homes being for social rent. The total investment will be over £3.8 million in Tamworth borough council.

As part of the Government's £1.5 billion housing pledge we increased investment in NAHP, alongside extensions to the Kickstart programme to unlock stalled sites and local authority new build. In round two of Kickstart, which developers were able to bid for, one scheme has been short-listed within Tamworth. This will now be subject to due diligence. No applications were received from Tamworth borough council for the local authority new build programme.

Council Housing: Construction

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* projects and *(b)* units he expects to be built in each (i) region and (ii) local authority area under the Local Authority New Build round (A) 1 and (B) 2; and how much funding has been allocated to each area for each round. [309829]

Mr. Ian Austin: Bids for funding under the local authority New Build programme are assessed by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and published by them on their website. The information on the allocation of funding to local authorities and regions under round 1 of bidding was published in September 2009. Information about allocations under round 2 has now been published by the HCA following the announcement of successful round 2 bids on 11 January.

Fire Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department provides to fire and rescue authorities on the conduct of their duties in relation to the requirements of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007. [310293]

Mr. Malik: Fire and Rescue Service Circular 6/2008, issued on 29 January 2008, informed fire and rescue authorities of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 (the Act), in particular the exception in section 6 of the Act and the limits of that exception as it applies to the Fire and Rescue Service.

The circular explains that Communities and Local Government cannot give a definitive legal ruling on the application of the Act to fire and rescue services—that is a role that only the courts can fulfil—and suggests that fire and rescue authorities may wish to seek their own legal advice.

Home Information Packs: Crime

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* estate agents and *(b)* individuals have been (i) fined and (ii) prosecuted for selling a home without a home information pack. [310539]

John Healey: I refer to the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 8 July 2009, *Official Report*, columns 902-03W.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of new build *(a)* socially rented properties and *(b)* affordable homes which were completed in the London borough of (i) Bexley, (ii) Bromley, (iii) Croydon and (iv) Greenwich in the last three years for which figures are available. [304994]

Mr. Ian Austin: The following table shows the number of new build social rented and affordable homes (social rent, intermediate rent and low cost home ownership) in the London boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Croydon and Greenwich each year since 2006-07.

	Social rent			*All affordable*		
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Bexley	50	130	10	100	250	10
Bromley	80	130	100	150	280	140
Croydon	220	290	220	390	550	320
Greenwich	280	170	160	470	360	260

Source:
Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System (IMS), and local authority returns to CLG. Figures have been rounded to nearest 10 units.

Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions, as some supply can come from acquisitions. For example, in 2008-09, a total of 150 affordable homes were provided in Bexley (new build and acquisitions), 340 in Bromley, 600 in Croydon, and 480 affordable homes were provided in Greenwich.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses are expected to be built in *(a)* the Bournemouth area, *(b)* the Dorset area and *(c)* the South West in 2010. [310086]

Mr. Ian Austin: As part of the refresh of Local Area Agreements, including the LAA for Dorset, the Government office for the south west is currently discussing with local authorities expected house building for 2009-10 and 2010-11 to reflect realistic assumptions. I expect those discussions to be concluded in March 2010. Until these Local Area Agreement negotiations are concluded, no figures are currently available.

As part of the response to the recession, the Government will be investing a further £1.5 billion as part of the housing pledge to build an extra 20,000 new affordable homes for rent and low cost sale. This will also create an estimated 45,000 additional jobs in the construction and related industries.

Housing: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) from which *(a)* funding stream and *(b)* annual budget the additional resources for new homes announced by the Minister of State for Housing on 30 December 2009 will come; [309825]

(2) what contractual conditions will apply to housing associations which obtain the funding announced by the Minister of State for Housing on 30 December 2009. [309827]

John Healey: The allocations announced on 30 December 2009 form part of the existing budget of the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing Programme. As such, housing associations receiving allocations through this funding stream will be subject to the terms and conditions of grant set out by the HCA as part of their agreements with their investment partners. Information on these terms and conditions are contained within the Capital Funding Guide published on the HCA website.

Housing: Lincolnshire

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been allocated to North East Lincolnshire under the *(a)* Kickstart Round One, *(b)* Local Authority New Build and *(c)* National Affordable Housing Programme scheme since the inception of that scheme; and how many houses have been authorised for construction in North East Lincolnshire under each such scheme. [309769]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor) on 12 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 329W, which placed information on the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing programme expenditure at local authority level in 2008-09 and to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 30 November 2009, *Official Report*, column 499W, which placed expenditure information for the same programme for the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 in the House Library.

Indicative allocations for each region in 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown in the Homes and Communities Agency's Corporate Plan which can be found on their website:

http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/

Allocations made to registered social landlords and other bodies by local authority area are published on the HCA website on a quarterly basis in their regional investment statements. Allocations made in any one year may not deliver the completed homes in that same year due to the time taken to build the homes.

Information on the number of affordable homes completed in North East Lincolnshire can be found in the Affordable Housing Live tables published on the Departments website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/affordablehousingsupply/livetables/

No funding has been allocated to the authority area under Kickstart round one and no application was received from North East Lincolnshire for the local authority New Build programmes.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals for a code for sustainable buildings which includes an assessment of *(a)* whole-life performance and *(b)* building type. [302768]

Mr. Ian Austin: We will be launching a consultation on proposed revisions to the existing Code for Sustainable Homes shortly. The consultation will focus on aligning the code with ongoing developments in zero carbon homes policy, including consulting on the energy efficiency standard; and developing opportunities for streamlining in the rating process as well as increasing awareness of the code and encouraging good practice.

Housing: Women

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps the Government have taken to provide sufficient accommodation for women who have been subject to domestic abuse or forced marriage; [302642]

(2) what steps the Government have taken to provide sufficient accommodation in Coventry for women who have been subject to domestic abuse or forced marriage; how much funding is being provided for such accommodation in 2009-10; and what steps the Government are taking to re-integrate such women into the community. [302643]

Mr. Ian Austin: Decisions around the provision of accommodation and support services for victims of domestic abuse and forced marriage are a local matter and it is the responsibility of the individual local authority to plan and commission or provide as they see fit.

Government strengthened the homelessness legislation in England by extending the priority need categories (that is, those people who must be secured accommodation if they have become homeless through no fault of their own). The additional categories included people who are vulnerable as a result of fleeing accommodation because of violence or threats of violence likely to be carried out In 2003 the Government announced major investment in refuge provision in England in 2003-06. A total of £34 million capital was allocated and 511 units of accommodation were refurbished or newly built. More recently the Hostels Capital Improvement Programme (2005/07) funded six new and refurbished refuges at a cost of £4 million. If new provision is required then bids can be made to the National Affordable Housing Programme.

CLG provides essential revenue support, via housing related support services, for victims of domestic violence through the Supporting People Programme. £64.5 million in 2007-08 up from £61.6 million in 2006-7. In Coventry £849,229 (2007-08) was spent on housing related support services for women at risk of domestic violence.

This Government take extremely seriously the issue of protection for people at risk of domestic violence and we must understand whether there is appropriate provision out there. That is why we have commissioned new research which will identify the current housing options available to households at risk of domestic violence, and to assess whether this provision meets current need. This will report next year.

Mass Media

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1295W, on mass media, which search terms have been monitored by *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency, *(b)* the Tenant Services Authority, *(c)* the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit and *(d)* his Department since January 2009. [309957]

John Healey: The search terms monitored by the Homes and Communities Agency are:

Homes and Communities Agency—main agreement

Homes and Communities Agency
English Partnerships
Milton Keynes Partnership Committee
Places of Change
Invest Milton Keynes
Milton Keynes plus World Cup

HCA London—regional office agreement (paid for by London team)

HCA London Board
David Lunts
Kidbrooke
Ferrier Estate
London-Wide Initiative
Blackwall Reach
Greenwich Peninsula
Greenwich Millennium Village
Croydon Town Centre
Robin Hood Gardens
Barking Town Centre
Wembley
Cane Hill

Elephant and Castle

Thames Gateway

Woodberry Down

Lower Lea Valley

HCA Academy agreement (paid for by academy)

Academy for Sustainable Communities

Place-Making

ASC

Brownfield Skills

HCA Academy

Homes and Communities Academy

Homes and Communities Agency Academy

Delivering Better Skills for Better Places

Regeneration

The search terms monitored by Tenant Services Authority are:

Tenant Services Authority/TSA

Homes and Communities Agency/HCA—only in conjunction with social housing

Communities and Local Government/CLG—only in conjunction with social housing

Housing Corporation

Housing Associations

Social Housing

National Conversation—a TSA led initiative to get tenants and social landlords' views and ideas on housing

In addition the following are spokespeople for the Tenant Services Authority:

Clare Miller

Phil Morgan

Richard Moriarty

Claer Lloyd-Jones

Anthony Mayer; and

Peter Marsh

The public relations firm employed by the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit advise them of any mentions of the organisation in national and trade media. The National Housing and Planning Advice Unit do not hold a separate list of search terms.

In respect of search terms monitored by the Department I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1491W.

Since then the search terms have been updated to include:

John Denham

Rosie Winterton

Shahid Malik

Barbara Follett

Re-Settlement Package (for Zimbabwe)

Tenant Services Authority

Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme.

The names of Ministers who no longer work for the Department have been removed, as well as several other search words:

Avian Flu

Bird Flu

Haringey Social Services

Haringey Council

Newham Homes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what inspection the Audit Commission has undertaken of Newham Homes. [308308]

Barbara Follett: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission, and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 14 January 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question outlined above has been passed to me to reply.

The Audit Commission inspected Newham Homes Landlord Services in October 2006. The report of the inspection was published in January 2007. The service was judged as 'good'/2 star with promising prospects. The service is due to be re-inspected under the arm's length management organisation (ALMO) inspection programme in February 2010.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

[illegible]n-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the properties receiving empty property business tax relief in each of the last five years were empty for more than six months; and how much was paid out in empty property business tax relief for such properties in each of those years. [310745]

Barbara Follett: This information is not held centrally.

In 2009-10 all empty properties with rateable values up to £15,000 are eligible for full relief from business rates. This temporary measure will continue for a further 12 months—to cover the whole of 2010-11—and the threshold will be uprated to £18,000, in line with the general movement of property values at revaluation. 70 per cent. of all properties are under this threshold and, if empty, will not be liable for rates in 2010-11. This temporary measure is providing real help to owners to manage short-term pressures in a difficult property market.

Ordnance Survey: Finance

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Re-mapping the future for Ordnance Survey—making public data public consultation, how much funding the Government plans to provide to Ordnance Survey for the provision of free mapping. [304098]

Mr. Ian Austin: Ordnance Survey currently covers all its costs—including investment—from the revenue it earns from licensing its data to customers in both the private and public sector. The Government will shortly be consulting on a proposal to make available certain Ordnance Survey datasets for free re-use to support greater transparency, improved public services and economic growth. There will be more detail in the consultation.

Planning Permission: Totnes

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will direct the local planning authority to conduct an environmental impact assessment in respect of planning application 52/1442/09/F Rowes Farm Development, Aish Road, Stoke Gabriel, Totnes. [310801]

Mr. Ian Austin: Officials in the Government office for the south west carefully considered this matter following a request from a third party to overturn the local planning authority's decision that an environmental impact assessment (EIA) was not required to accompany a planning application for development proposed at Rowes Farm, Stoke Gabriel.

The proposed development was not considered by the Government office as likely to have significant environmental effects such as to merit an EIA, even though the proposals involved land in an area of outstanding natural beauty and thus a 'sensitive area' under the terms of the relevant regulations. A letter sent on 12 January informed the third party and was copied to the local planning authority.

Regional Government

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether successor bodies to regional assemblies will be designated as public authorities for the purposes of *(a)* equality and human rights and *(b)* freedom of information legislation. [308588]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Following the commencement of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act joint responsibility for the single regional strategy will rest with the "Responsible Regional Authorities" who are regional development agencies and Local Authority Leaders' Boards. All authorities fulfilling a public function are bound by the Human Rights Act.

In relation to information regional development agencies are non-departmental public bodies and so the NDPB model publication scheme applies to them. The application of part 5A of the Local Government Act applies to leaders' boards (but only in their non-joint working) as it applies to a principal council.

The Freedom of Information Act applies to RDAs. It is the Government's intention that FOI legislation should apply to leaders' boards and they will be added to the schedule 1 of the FOI Act at the next opportunity.

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 20 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 1401W, on regional development agencies, which bodies will be designated as regional planning bodies following the transfer of functions from the regional assemblies. [308387]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Following the commencement of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act no one will be designated as "Regional Planning Body". Joint responsibility for the single regional strategy will rest with the "Responsible Regional Authorities" who are regional development agencies and Local Authority Leaders Boards.

TREASURY

Cheques

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the proposal to discontinue bank cheques; and what steps he plans to take to protect the interests of *(a)* elderly and *(b)* other bank customers who do not have access to internet banking in circumstances in which that proposal is implemented. [310708]

Mr. Timms: The Government have received various representations, from members of Parliament and the public, about the Payments Council's decision that cheques should be phased out to a 2018 timetable due to the declining trajectory of usage.

Before any final decision is made in 2016, and ahead of the closure of the cheque clearing system, the council has committed to ensuring that adequate alternatives are in place for all users of cheques, in particular for users who are highly dependent on this method of payment.

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310519]

Mr. Timms: There is currently 282.79 m^2 Net Internal Areas (NIA) of vacant space and 22,942.76 m^2 (NIA) of occupied space within 1 Horse Guards road. This building is managed under a PFI contract where the freehold reverts to the Crown at the end of the term. Valuation of land and buildings is set out in the Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09 (HC 611). Vacant space is not separately valued.

There is currently no vacant space within 6,574.30 m^2 of occupied, rented space at Rosebery Court in Norwich. Leasehold premises are not valued.

EC Budget

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on *(a)* the overall size of the EU's 2010 budget and *(b)* the UK's contribution to that budget. [310292]

Ian Pearson: At Budget ECOFIN (18 November) the UK secured a 2010 budget that was below the level of the Commission's proposals and almost €5 billion (4 per cent.) lower than proposed by the European Parliament, saving the UK taxpayer almost £0.5 billion. This is in line with our overriding objectives of promoting Budget discipline and value for money for taxpayers. This outcome has been made possible through close engagement with the Commission and our European partners throughout the 2010 budget negotiations process.

The UK is required to make contributions to the EC Budget under obligations imposed by the Treaties. The European Communities Act, Section 2 in particular gives effect within the UK to Community law. Contributions to the annual EC Budget are determined in accordance with the Own Resources Decision (ORD), unanimously agreed by all member states and ratified in accordance with their constitutional requirements.

Excise Duties: Alcoholic Drinks

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of alcohol duty fraud; [310566]

(2) what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs is taking in co-operation with European counterparts to reduce levels of alcohol duty fraud; [310567]

(3) how many allegations have been received by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in the last 12 months of the sale of alcohol on which duty has not been paid; and how many such allegations have been investigated by HMRC. [310568]

Mr. Timms: The Chancellor announced at Budget 2009 the revised 'tackling alcohol fraud' strategy which has three principal themes:

Strengthening our operational responses;

Reducing opportunities for fraud;

Closing off illicit supply chains.

The strategy is set out in further detail in "Renewal of the Tackling Alcohol Fraud strategy", published in April 2009 and available at

www.hmrc.go.uk-budget_2009/tackling_alcohol_2850.htm

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is making good progress on all three strands of this strategy. The regulatory framework is being strengthened to reduce opportunities for fraud; the new operational model for HMRC to respond to fraud using new approaches and the full range of HMRC's powers is on track to be implemented from April 2010; and HMRC is working with the large brewers and wholesale buying groups on developing practical measures to close off illicit supply chains.

HMRC co-operates with its European counterparts on excise matters, including alcohol fraud, under the terms of EC Council Regulation 2073/2004 (on the administrative co-operation in excise matters) and the Naples II Convention. Additionally, over the past eight years the UK has worked with counterpart revenue authorities on the development of the EU-wide Excise Movement and Control System (EMCS). This provides an electronic system for monitoring the movement of excise goods in duty suspension within the EU and comes into effect on 1 April 2010.

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2009 HMRC received approximately 650 allegations relating to alcohol. All allegations are actioned. A range of responses, including formal investigations, are considered as appropriate depending on the seriousness of the allegation and quality of intelligence provided. For operational reasons and to protect third party confidentiality HMRC cannot comment on how many allegations have been formally investigated.

Financial Transactions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of financial transactions made in the UK were made by *(a)* debit card, *(b)* credit card, *(c)* online transactions other than bank transfer, *(d)* bank transfer, *(e)* cash payment, *(f)* cheque and *(g)* another form of payment in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [310480]

Mr. Timms: The number of financial transactions made through different forms of payments is provided in the following table using data provided by the Payments Council. Data for 2009 are not yet available.

Number of payments

(millions)

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Debit card	3,690	4,084	4,512	4,939	5,384
Credit card	1,949	1,924	1,929	1,954	1,986
Online transactions	45.0	74.2	115.3	158.5	173.1
Bank transfer	4,819	5,364	5,605	5,804	6,011
Cash	24,667	23,968	23,069	22,408	22,569
Cheque	2,088	1,931	1,778	1,600	1,403
Other	277	276	271	305	303
Total	37,535	37,621	37,281	37,170	37,830

The following table, using the data provided by the Payments Council, shows the proportion of financial transactions made by the various forms of payment.

Percentage of payments made by:	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Debit card	9.8	10.9	12.1	13.3	14.2
Credit card	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.2
Online transactions	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5
Bank transfer	12.8	14.3	15.0	15.6	15.9
Cash	65.7	63.7	61.9	60.3	59.7
Cheque	5.6	5.1	4.8	4.3	3.7
Other	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8

Notes:

1. Percentages are expressed in terms of the number of transactions made.
2. Bank transfers include Direct Debits, Bacs Direct Credits, Standing Orders, CHAPS and one-off payments made through the Faster Payments Service.
3. Online transactions include PayPal and other internet payment methods. Bank transfers and online payments made by credit card and debit card are excluded.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the net change in aggregate rateable values consequent on the new system of rating ports for the purpose of calculating business rates. [308595]

Ian Pearson: The net change of aggregate rateable values at 1 April 2005 is estimated to be an increase of £1.2 million

The assessment of separate occupations within ports for business rates is not a new system and was not introduced by the Valuation Office Agency's review of ports.

Patents

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of progress by his Department in the development of the patent box policy as set out in the 2009 pre-Budget report. [310589]

Mr. Timms: The Chancellor announced in the 2009 pre-Budget report that the Government will introduce a patent box, applying a 10 per cent. rate of corporation tax to income from patents from the start of the 2013-14 tax year. The Government will consult widely on the final design in time for Finance Bill 2011.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment his Department has made of its 2006 Flexible Global Reach, Future Manning Strategy in respect of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary; and if he will make a statement. [309164]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

As was announced on 7 December 2009 in the Treasury's Operational Efficiency Programme Asset Portfolio document, we will be looking at the current arrangement for delivering maritime operational support through the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. This review will include assessing the 2006 Flexible Global Reach Future Manning Strategy.

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which organisations his Department expects to consult as part of its Operational Efficiency Review in respect of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. [309201]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

We are currently drawing up a list of key stakeholders to be consulted during the review of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Stakeholders from outside the MOD include the Department for Transport, the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers and Nautilus International. I plan to meet key trade union stakeholders.

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Operational Efficiency Review in respect of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary to report; and if he will make a statement. [309202]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 16 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 1208W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey (Derek Wyatt).

VAT: Pharmacy

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, column 857W, on taxation: health professionals, if he will bring forward legislation to apply the same treatment for value-added tax purposes to pharmacy contractors and appliance contractors. [310675]

Mr. Timms: The application of VAT throughout the EU is governed by agreements between the UK and its EU partners. Under these agreements, the UK is allowed to keep its existing zero rates, but may not extend their scope or introduce new ones. Therefore, it would not now be possible for the UK to remove VAT from goods supplied by appliance contractors which are not already zero-rated.

JUSTICE

Children's Act 1989

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many section 47 Children's Act 1989 referrals were made of 18 to 21-year-old prisoners to adult social services by *(a)* the Prison Service and *(b)* the Probation Service in the last 12 months. [308027]

Maria Eagle: Section 47 of the Children's Act 1989 sets out local authorities' obligations to investigate concerns about the welfare of those under the age of 18. There is therefore no provision under this section for either the prison or probation services to make a referral to adult social services for young adult offenders aged between 18 and 21.

Corruption: Public Service

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Huntington of 26 October 2009, *Official Report*, column 86W, on corruption, when he now plans to publish the Foreign Bribery Strategy. [310003]

Mr. Straw: Following the launch of the new OECD Recommendation for Further Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials on 9 December 2009, the UK Foreign Bribery Strategy has been amended to highlight this new platform for international cooperation. I plan to publish the Strategy shortly.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he has provided to *(a)* Government (i) Departments and (ii) other bodies and *(b)* non-governmental organisations in his role as anti-corruption champion. [310004]

Mr. Straw: In my role as International Anti-Corruption Champion, I am responsible for coordinating and driving forward Government action against international corruption. This cross-departmental work has included annual instructions to Overseas Missions on reporting allegations on UK involvement in foreign bribery and supporting ethical business conduct. Work under the new Foreign Bribery Strategy will include a more detailed anti-corruption toolkit for Overseas Missions and the development of new guidelines regarding companies convicted of corruption offences.

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what meetings he has had in his role as anti-corruption champion. [310007]

Mr. Straw: In my role as International Anti-Corruption Champion I have held roundtable discussions with business, non-governmental organisations, police, prosecutors, and regulators on 12 May and 13 October 2009. I also addressed the 5th European Forum on Anti-corruption on 23 June 2009 (the text is available on the MoJ website). In addition, I have had internal meetings with departmental officials in relation to this role.

Crimes of Violence: Older People

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people of each sex aged 65 and above have been convicted of each offence involving violence against the person in each police force area in each year since 1997. [310728]

Claire Ward: The number of defendants aged 65 and over who were found guilty at all courts for violence against the person, by police force area 1997 to 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 are planned for publication on 28 January 2010.

Number of persons aged 65 and over found guilty at all courts for violence against the person[1], England and Wales 1997 to 2007[2, 3]

	1997			1998			1999		
Police force area	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	2	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bedfordshire	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cambridgeshire	3	—	3	1	—	1	1	—	1
Cheshire	1	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	2
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cumbria	4	—	4	3	—	3	1	—	1
Derbyshire	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2
Devon and Cornwall	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	2
Dorset	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Durham	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	2	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	2
Gloucestershire	3	—	3	2	—	2	1	—	1
Greater Manchester	6	—	6	6	2	8	9	—	9
Hampshire	2	1	3	3	—	3	2	—	2
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
Humberside	2	—	2	4	—	4	1	—	1
Kent	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	—	4
Lancashire	1	—	1	6	—	6	2	—	2
Leicestershire	—	—	—	2	—	2	3	—	3
Lincolnshire	3	—	3	2	—	2	1	—	1
Merseyside	2	1	3	2	—	2	5	—	5
Metropolitan Police	17	—	17	13	2	15	28	1	29
Norfolk	2	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	2
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Northumbria	4	—	4	3	—	3	2	—	2
Nottinghamshire	2	1	3	4	1	5	1	1	2
South Yorkshire	4	—	4	—	—	1	3	—	3
Staffordshire	1	—	1	2	—	2	4	—	4
Suffolk	—	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	2
Surrey	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Sussex	2	1	3	2	1	3	6	—	6
Thames Valley	3	—	3	4	—	4	—	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
West Mercia	5	—	5	4	—	4	1	1	2
West Midlands	9	—	9	6	—	6	5	—	5
West Yorkshire	3	—	3	2	—	2	2	—	2
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Dyfed-Powys	1	—	1	2	—	2	1	—	1
Gwent	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1
North Wales	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	3
South Wales	5	—	5	3	—	3	3	1	4
England and Wales	95	6	101	91	9	100	114	5	119

	2000			2001			2002		
Police force area	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	5	—	5	2	—	2
Bedfordshire	1	—	1	—	1	1	3	—	3

	2000			2001			2002		
Police force area	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Cheshire	2	1	3	1	—	1	1	1	2
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cleveland	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	3
Cumbria	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	2
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Devon and Cornwall	4	1	5	2	—	2	5	1	6
Dorset	1	—	1	1	1	2	2	—	2
Durham	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	2
Essex	2	1	3	2	—	2	—	2	2
Gloucestershire	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1
Greater Manchester	6	1	7	5	1	6	7	—	7
Hampshire	4	1	5	3	—	3	5	1	6
Hertfordshire	1	—	1	2	—	2	3	—	3
Humberside	—	—	—	3	—	3	1	—	1
Kent	2	—	2	2	—	2	2	—	2
Lancashire	7	—	7	6	—	6	3	—	3
Leicestershire	1	—	1	1	1	2	2	—	2
Lincolnshire	2	—	2	1	—	1	2	—	2
Merseyside	1	—	1	3	—	3	6	—	6
Metropolitan Police	27	3	30	21	—	21	26	3	29
Norfolk	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	1
North Yorkshire	4	1	5	1	—	1	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1
Northumbria	6	1	7	2	2	4	2	—	2
Nottinghamshire	2	1	3	2	—	2	1	1	2
South Yorkshire	3	—	3	2	—	2	2	—	2
Staffordshire	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Surrey	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
Sussex	4	—	4	2	—	2	1	1	2
Thames Valley	3	1	4	1	—	1	2	—	2
Warwickshire	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1
West Mercia	7	—	7	3	1	4	—	—	—
West Midlands	6	—	6	5	—	5	11	—	11
West Yorkshire	5	—	5	3	1	4	4	—	4
Wiltshire	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	3	—	3	1	—	1	2	—	2
Gwent	1	—	1	2	1	3	3	—	3
North Wales	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	2
South Wales	6	1	7	6	—	6	7	—	7
England and Wales	119	15	134	99	9	108	122	12	134

	2003			2004			2005		
Police force area	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	2	—	2	2	1	3	5	—	5
Bedfordshire	7	—	7	1	—	1	3	—	3
Cambridgeshire	5	—	5	5	—	5	1	—	1
Cheshire	1	1	2	2	—	2	1	—	1
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	1	—	1	4	—	4	1	—	1
Cumbria	1	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Derbyshire	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Devon and Cornwall	4	2	6	3	2	5	4	—	4
Dorset	—	—	—	4	—	4	—	—	—
Durham	1	—	1	4	1	5	—	—	—
Essex	—	2	2	3	—	3	4	2	6
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	7

Police force area	*2003*			*2004*			*2005*		
	Males	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Greater Manchester	7	—	7	8	1	9	6	—	6
Hampshire	2	1	3	6	—	6	12	—	12
Hertfordshire	2	—	2	—	1	1	1	1	2
Humberside	5	1	6	3	—	3	2	2	4
Kent	8	—	8	2	—	2	2	—	2
Lancashire	4	1	5	3	1	4	5	1	6
Leicestershire	4	—	4	4	1	5	6	1	7
Lincolnshire	1	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
Merseyside	6	—	6	7	—	7	2	—	2
Metropolitan Police	20	1	21	26	4	30	21	4	25
Norfolk	2	—	2	3	1	4	2	—	2
North Yorkshire	1	1	2	2	—	2	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Northumbria	2	—	2	3	1	4	2	1	3
Nottinghamshire	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	1	4
South Yorkshire	2	—	2	—	—	—	4	—	4
Staffordshire	1	—	1	2	1	3	2	—	2
Suffolk	3	—	3	3	1	4	1	—	1
Surrey	3	1	4	—	—	—	1	—	1
Sussex	5	1	6	6	1	7	3	—	3
Thames Valley	3	—	3	3	—	3	6	—	6
Warwickshire	1	—	1	2	—	2	1	—	1
West Mercia	—	1	1	3	1	4	6	—	6
West Midlands	11	—	11	14	1	15	10	—	10
West Yorkshire	3	—	3	7	2	9	4	—	4
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Dyfed-Powys	1	—	1	1	—	1	3	—	3
Gwent	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	1
North Wales	3	—	3	2	1	3	2	—	2
South Wales	4	—	4	6	1	7	3	—	3
England and Wales	129	15	144	145	25	170	143	13	156

Police force area	*2006*			*2007*		
	Males	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	2	—	2	1	—	1
Bedfordshire	2	—	2	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	2	—	2	1	—	1
Cheshire	1	—	1	2	—	2
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	4	—	4	—	1	1
Cumbria	3	—	3	—	—	—
Derbyshire	3	—	3	5	—	5
Devon and Cornwall	6	—	6	11	1	12
Dorset	2	—	2	4	—	4
Durham	1	—	1	3	—	3
Essex	2	1	3	4	—	4
Gloucestershire	4	—	4	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	11	3	14	2	2	4
Hampshire	10	1	11	5	3	8
Hertfordshire	1	—	1	1	—	1
Humberside	3	1	4	1	2	3
Kent	2	—	2	1	—	1
Lancashire	1	1	2	7	—	7
Leicestershire	1	—	1	4	—	4
Lincolnshire	2	—	2	2	—	2
Merseyside	4	1	5	3	1	4
Metropolitan Police	25	5	30	32	3	35
Norfolk	2	—	2	2	—	2
North Yorkshire	3	1	4	4	1	5

	2006			2007		
Police force area	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	4	—	4	5	—	5
Nottinghamshire	4	—	4	3	—	3
South Yorkshire	4	—	4	—	1	1
Staffordshire	—	—	—	4	—	4
Suffolk	2	—	2	1	—	1
Surrey	—	—	—	4	1	5
Sussex	8	—	8	5	1	6
Thames Valley	3	—	3	5	—	5
Warwickshire	4	—	4	2	—	2
West Mercia	3	1	4	5	—	5
West Midlands	15	3	18	18	2	20
West Yorkshire	8	—	8	7	1	8
Wiltshire	5	—	5	1	—	1
Dyfed-Powys	3	1	4	1	—	1
Gwent	3	1	4	1	1	2
North Wales	1	1	2	3	1	4
South Wales	1	—	1	1	—	1
England and Wales	165	21	186	161	22	183

[1] Violence against the person includes: Murder, Attempted murder. Threat or conspiracy to murder, manslaughter, causing death by aggravated vehicle taking, wounding or other act endangering life, endangering railway passenger, endangering life at sea, other wounding, cruelty to or neglect of children, abandoning children under two years, child abduction, procuring illegal abortion, concealment of birth.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on conferences they organised which were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years; and what the title was of each such conference. [308832]

Claire Ward: No conferences were organised then subsequently cancelled in the last three years in the Ministry of Justice and its agencies.

Departmental Information Officers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* press officers and *(b)* communications staff were employed by his Department (i) in each year since it was established and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available; and what the cost of employing these staff was in each such year. [309929]

Mr. Straw: The salary related cost of press officers (including contractors and agency staff) employed in 2008-09 and 2007-08, excluding support staff, and the number employed at the end of each year are as follows:

	2008-09		2007-08	
Press officers	*Cost nearest £000*	*Number at 31 March 2009*	*Cost nearest £000*	*Number at 31 March 2008*
MOJ HQ	1,976	40	1,560	33
HM Courts Service	136	3	159	3
Tribunals Service	107	1	55	1
National Offender Management Service[1]	0	0	0	0
Office of the Public Guardian[1]	0	0	0	0
Total	2,219	44	1,774	37

[1] MOJ HQ provides press office services to NOMS and OPG.

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) press office operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, dealing with all media relations for the Department, including the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), from the international, national and regional media.

The MOJ is one of the largest Departments in Government. Communications, including the work of the press office, is an important element of this. The rise in the number of press officers is attributable to the need to increase the capability of the press office to deal with the expanded remit of the work undertaken by the MOJ, compared to its predecessor, the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

Communications officers include intranet/internet staff, event organisation, marketing and publishing staff and others involved in communications roles. The salary related cost of communications officers employed in 2008-09 and 2007-08 (include contractors and Agency staff, where known) and the number employed at the end of each year are as follows:

	2008-09		2007-08	
Communications Officers	*Cost nearest £000*	*Number at 31 March 2009*	*Cost nearest £000*	*Number at 31 March 2008*
MOJ HQ	2,801	38	2,286	42
HM Courts Service	510	9	439	9
Tribunals Service	360	11	355	11
National Offender Management Service[1]	847	19	609	18
Office of the Public Guardian	176	4	173	3
Total	4,694	81	3,862	83

[1] Figures for NOMS do not include agency staff or contractors.

For both press officers and communications officers, the number of staff employed at the end of each financial year may not be typical of numbers employed in other months of the year so a comparison of average costs based on the table above is misleading. Average staff numbers are not available for the whole period for press and communications staff separately.

The increase in expenditure on communications officers in MOJ HQ reflects the significantly increased size and remit of MOJ compared to its predecessor, the Department for Constitutional Affairs, and a consequent need to increase the capability of staff employed. To meet this challenge, a number of communications-led projects were undertaken which required the employment of specialist contractors by the MOJ HQ communications directorate for a limited period of time which further increased costs in 2008-09 on a one-off basis.

Expenditure on communications officers by the National Offender Management Service is not directly comparable between years. The 2007-08 figure relates only to Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS). HMPS was merged with the National Probation Service and some former headquarters functions from 1 April 2008. The expanded remit and responsibilities of the enlarged agency necessitated the employment of more senior staff within the communications unit.

The number of staff employed as at the current time and the expenditure incurred from 1 April 2009 to 31 December 2009 is:

	2009-10	
	Cost nearest £000	*Number at 31 December 2009*
Press officers		
MOJ HQ[1]	1,717	38
HM Courts Service	118	2
Tribunals Service	43	1
National Offender Management Service	0	0
Office of the Public Guardian[1]	0	0
Total	1,978	41
Communications Officers		
MOJ HQ[2]	1,927	51
HM Courts Service	321	8
Tribunals Service	232	8
National Offender Management Service[3]	756	17
Office of the Public Guardian	136	4
Total	3,372	88

[1] MOJ HQ provides press office services for NOMS and OPG.

[2] Nine staff, based previously in the Information and Communications Technology directorate have transferred to the MOJ HQ communications team in 2009. This team now provides a shared service in design and publication to the wider MOJ, including many of its agencies and NDPBs. This shared service is significantly reducing the use of external suppliers. In addition MOJ HQ has taken on the Directgov and business link franchises.

[3] Figures for NOMS do not include agency or contract staff.

Departmental Public Participation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many citizen juries or summits have been hosted by his Department since October 2008; on what date each event took place; and which Ministers were present at each event. [310780]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has not held any citizen's juries or summits, as they are defined in the Government's "National Framework for Greater Citizen Engagement", since October 2008.

Drugs: Crime

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* community sentences, *(b)* fines, *(c)* custodial sentences and *(d)* cautions were imposed for drug dealing offences relating to each type of drug in each of the last three years. [310095]

Claire Ward: The requested information is shown in the following tables.

The Number of persons sentenced for drug dealing offences and all types of drugs 2005-07

				2005			
	Absolute Discharge	*Conditional Discharge*	*Fine*	*Community Sentence*	*Immediate Custody*	*Suspended Sentences*	*Total sentenced*
Supply or offering to supply Methamphetamine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cocaine	0	10	14	94	316	15	451
Heroin	0	10	5	301	902	29	1,252
LSD	0	1	0	3	4	0	8
MDMA	0	6	7	59	91	7	172
Crack	0	1	1	57	198	7	265
Methadone	0	1	1	7	6	3	18
Other Class A	0	12	7	142	353	14	529
Amphetamine	1	4	6	22	30	6	71
Other Class B	0	4	1	7	22	3	37
Cannabis	3	22	25	159	135	19	367
Anabolic Steroids	0	1	0	0	3	0	4
Other Class C	0	28	19	75	89	10	223
Ketamine	0	0	0	0	0		0
Unspecified	0	0	0	16	217	6	242
Total	4	100	86	942	2366	119	3,639
Possession with intent to supply							
Cocaine	0	5	14	129	748	26	930
Heroin	2	6	5	225	848	19	1,118
LSD	0	0	0	4	5	1	11
MDMA	3	5	8	165	342	25	551
Crack	1	0	7	36	246	10	303
Methadone	0	1	0	3	3	1	8
Other Class A	0	2	5	42	141	6	198
Amphetamine	0	2	7	107	123	14	254
Other Class B	0	1	2	8	5	0	16
Cannabis	0	30	62	526	272	53	950
Anabolic Steroids	0	0	0	2	1	0	4
Other Class C	0	20	28	285	230	43	614
Ketamine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unspecified	0	2	1	12	67	5	87
GBH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6	74	139	1,544	3,031	203	5,044

				2006			
	Absolute Discharge	*Conditional Discharge*	*Fine*	*Community Sentence*	*Immediate Custody*	*Suspended Sentences*	*Total sentenced*
Supply or offering to supply Methamphetamine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cocaine	0	9	12	69	358	47	502
Heroin	0	6	0	210	810	132	1,166
LSD	0	0	0	1		1	2
MDMA	0	0	14	46	81	22	164
Crack	0	3	4	37	202	23	272
Methadone	0	0	1	5	6	2	14

	2006						
	Absolute Discharge	*Conditional Discharge*	*Fine*	*Community Sentence*	*Immediate Custody*	*Suspended Sentences*	*Total sentenced*
Other Class A	0	4	2	79	339	37	467
Amphetamine	0	5	2	18	54	10	89
Other Class B	0	1	0	3	3	4	11
Cannabis	0	25	21	118	101	85	352
Anabolic Steroids	0	0	0	0	0		0
Other Class C	0	19	13	81	106	54	277
Ketamine	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Unspecified	0	0	0	8	136	6	160
Total	0	72	70	676	2,196	424	3,479
Possession with intent to supply							
Cocaine	1	6	9	94	774	94	986
Heroin	0	4	8	155	847	73	1,101
LSD	0	0	0	0	4	3	8
MDMA	0	3	10	78	256	67	419
Crack	0	1	3	45	231	17	298
Methadone	0	0	0	2	3	3	8
Other Class A	0	0	4	44	145	22	217
Amphetamine	0	8	1	71	109	67	262
Other Class B		0	2	8	4	3	18
Cannabis	0	39	29	378	240	186	884
Anabolic Steroids	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Other Class C	0	13	17	207	293	202	739
Ketamine	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Unspecified	1	3	7	17	64	12	107
GBH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	78	90	1,100	2,971	750	5,051

	2007						
	Absolute Discharge	*Conditional Discharge*	*Fine*	*Community Sentence*	*Immediate Custody*	*Suspended Sentences*	*Total sentenced*
Supply or offering to supply Methamphetamine	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Cocaine	0	4	6	70	353	89	526
Heroin	0	6	4	149	829	158	1,159
LSD	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
MDMA	0	5	2	34	73	43	158
Crack	0	0	1	28	206	24	261
Methadone	0	1	0	6	6	2	15
Other Class A	0	3	0	65	339	61	471
Amphetamine	1	1	4	22	23	24	75
Other Class B	0	0	2	2	3	2	10
Cannabis	2	18	29	120	101	77	354
Anabolic Steroids	0	1	0	2	0	1	4
Other Class C	0	14	8	54	65	80	224
Ketamine	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Unspecified		0	0	10	213	10	233
Total	3	53	58	562	2215	571	3,496
Possession with intent to supply							
Cocaine	4	5	19	119	837	171	1,165
Heroin	0	4	6	139	877	102	1138
LSD	0	1	2	4	6	2	15
MDMA	1	6	7	87	276	126	509
Crack	0	3	3	46	276	31	364
Methadone	0	0	1	1	1	2	5
Other Class A	0	2	1	38	196	39	277
Amphetamine	0	8	6	44	125	99	283
Other Class B	0	0	0	3	14	2	19
Cannabis	1	12	32	340	232	263	910
Anabolic Steroids	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

	2007						
	Absolute Discharge	*Conditional Discharge*	*Fine*	*Community Sentence*	*Immediate Custody*	*Suspended Sentences*	*Total sentenced*
Other Class C	0	13	23	169	287	252	754
Ketamine		0	1	4	0	0	5
Unspecified	1	2	5	8	40	10	68
GBH	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	7	56	106	1,002	3,168	1,100	5,514

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services: Ministry of Justice

The number of offenders cautioned for supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug, by drug type, England and Wales, 2005 to 2007[1,2,3]

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Supplying or offering to supply			
Methamphetamine	—	—	—
Cocaine	20	41	46
Heroin	31	20	27
LSD	1	4	—
MDMA	22	27	28
Crack	11	6	6
Methadone	8	10	7
Other class A drugs	13	22	25
Amphetamine	10	12	27
Other class B drugs	5	4	3
Cannabis	153	131	130
Anabolic Steroids	1	1	—
Other class C drugs	33	33	37
Ketamine	—	1	7
Unspecified	10	3	2
GHB	1	1	—
Total	319	316	345
Having possession with intent to supply			
Methamphetamine	—	—	1
Cocaine	53	91	100
Heroin	34	36	18
LSD	—	3	6
MDMA	50	60	60
Crack	20	24	17
Methadone	3	1	3
Other class A drugs	29	32	29
Amphetamine	16	22	23
Other class B drugs	3	5	5
Cannabis	482	490	423
Anabolic Steroids	2	4	1
Other class C drugs	57	51	41
Ketamine	—	—	8
Unspecified	16	22	27
GHB	—	—	—
Total	765	841	762

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.

Email: Government Departments

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the Prime Minister's policy is on the *(a)* retention and *(b)* deletion of emails in Government departments. [310706]

Mr. Wills: The National Archives provides guidance to Departments on electronic records management. The policies on e-mails are no different to those on paper records. It is the context of e-mails or paper documents that determines what should be kept, and what destroyed. The National Archives advises Departments to manage e-mails as part of an overall records management policy and to ensure they are held in a managed environment which can sustain access to the records for as long as they are required.

Prison Accommodation

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juvenile prisoners aged *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16 and *(c)* 17 are in detention at locations more than 50 miles from their home address. [310729]

Maria Eagle: As of 8 May 2009 (the last date at which data are available) there were 871 young people aged 15-17 who were detained in young offender institutions (YOIs) more than 50 miles from their home area.

The following table shows the number of 15 to 17-year-old male and female offenders in YOIs who were detained (i) up to 50 miles from their home area and (ii) more than 50 miles from their home area.

Age	*Prisoners held up to 50 miles from home area*	*Prisoners held over 50 miles from home area*	*Total*
15	139	87	226
16	330	249	579
17	811	535	1,346
Total	1,280	871	2,151

All prisoners are asked for details of their home address on first reception to prison and on discharge from prison. About 60 per cent. of prisoners (both male and female) are shown to have given a recognised address. If no address is given, various proxies are used to determine distance from home, including next-of-kin address and committal court address. Figures have been scaled to match the overall 15 to 17-year-old population.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 7 January 2010, *Official Report*, columns 546-47W, on prison accommodation, of the cells not included in the certified normal accommodation of the prison estate, how many are *(a)* part of segregation units, *(b)* part of in-patient health care centres and *(c)* holding cells in prison receptions. [310736]

Mr. Straw: As of 14 December 2009 and based on information from central records, about 2,712 places were not included in the certified normal accommodation (or uncrowded capacity) of the prison estate. Of those places, about 1,800 are part of segregation units; 400 are in health care in-patient centres; and 500 are in other locations, mainly holding cells.

These figures have been drawn from central administrative/recording systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Sentences: Females

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many females were given custodial sentences in each of the last three years. [310827]

Claire Ward: The requested information is provided in the following table.

Total females given custodial sentences, 2005 to 2007

	Immediate custody	*Suspended sentence*	*Total custodial sentences*
2005	8,281	1,570	9,851
2006	7,844	4,516	12,360
2007	7,795	5,552	13,347

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

This table is also available in Sentencing Statistics 2007, table 2.9. Data are available in the following link

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/sentencingannual.htm.

Sentencing Statistics 2008 will be published on 28 January 2010.

The Government take the issue of women's offending very seriously. On 14 December 2009 Maria Eagle made a statement to Parliament and published the Government's Strategy for Diverting Women Away from Custody. In the report we have committed to reduce the women's prison estate by 300 places by March 2011 with an additional 100 places by March 2012 and divert resources from custody to the community to sustain the multi-agency community services we have established through our grant funding project which we announced on 3 February 2009.

To take forward this grants project we have committed £15.6 million of new funding over two years, to invest in the provision of additional services in the community for women offenders, who are not a danger to the public, and women at risk of offending. Since then we have agreed in excess of £9 million of the funding to 31 third sector organisations to build capacity of women's community projects and other specialist provision for women in the community; a further £1 million has been used to continue the Together Women Projects in the north west and Yorkshire and Humberside.

Prisoners: Epilepsy

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will direct the National Offender Management Service to undertake a review of the care of prisoners and those held on remand with epilepsy for the purposes of implementing standards for care provided by staff in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions. [310324]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

There will be no centrally commissioned review by the National Offender Management Service or the Department of the care of prisoners and those held on remand with epilepsy in prisons and young offender institutes.

Since 2006, primary care trusts (PCTs) have been responsible for commissioning health services for their offender health population. In commissioning these services, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for epilepsy provides the benchmark for providers of these services.

Local PCTs are responsible for assuring the quality of care provided in primary care settings to their local population, which includes all publicly run prisons.

All clinical staff are regulated and subject to the same standards of practice including those providing care in prisons. The standards of care expressed in the New General Medical Services Quality Outcomes Framework will be monitored, as they are in general practice, across the prison estate following the roll out of a general practitioner clinical information technology system.

Prisons: Drugs

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners receiving methadone treatment are serving sentences of *(a)* less than three months, *(b)* between three and six months, *(c)* between six months and one year, *(d)* between one and two years and *(e)* more than two years. [308211]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not yet available.

A joint Home Office, National Offender Management Service, National Treatment Agency and Department project has redesigned the Drug Information Record (DIR) and Prison Activity Form which came into use on 1 April 2009, therefore mechanisms are now in place for prisons to collect baseline data on the number of drug users in effective treatment.

Section 5.2 of the new DIR collects the following information:

If the length of sentence is:

less than one year;

between one to four years; and

more than four years.

As this data collection only began in April 2009 it will not be until 2011-12, when the data improvement project has had a chance to take effect, that data on methadone prescription by sentence length is likely to be sufficiently robust to produce reliable data.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons have been convicted of *(a)* attempting to smuggle and *(b)* smuggling drugs into prison in each of the last five years. [310701]

Maria Eagle: Recorded and published crime data relating to the supply and attempted supply of drugs offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 are not disaggregated to those involving prisons. Obtaining the detailed data as requested would require contacting prisons, police forces and courts and could be done only at disproportionate cost.

From 1 April 2008, in order to strengthen the penalties for smuggling contraband into a prison, an offence under section 22 of the Offender Management Act 2007 was created for the conveyance of drugs into a prison. The offence carries a penalty of up to 10 years and or an unlimited fine. Other offences relating to conveying other contraband into a prison were also created.

From April 2009, indictable and triable-either-way offences contained in the Offender Management Act have been included in the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime. Offences under the Act are recorded by police and will be published in next year's annual statistical bulletin, Crime in England and Wales (July 2010).

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of staff at adult prisons are searched for illegal substances on arrival at work. [310702]

Maria Eagle: To provide the information requested would involve collating information from all prisons in the adult estate which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

The National Offender Management Service's (NOMS) policy requires that in all prisons, procedures are in place for the searching of prisoners, staff, domestic, official and professional visitors and contractors, which are capable of detecting all items of contraband, including illegal substances. These arrangements must be set out as part of a written local security strategy agreed with the regional manager.

While the searching of staff will be carried out in all prisons on entry, the level and frequency of such searching at individual prisons is determined by local security and control needs and is set out in each prison's local searching strategy.

In the majority of prisons this will mean a programme of routine searches of staff in addition to searches based on suspicion or on receipt of intelligence. In some prisons, particularly some open prisons, a better use of resources may be achieved by carrying out only targeted, intelligence-led or random search programmes.

Secure Training Centres: Training

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of young offenders released from Medway Secure Training Centre have subsequently entered *(a)* full or part-time education, *(b)* full or part-time employment and *(c)* full or part-time training in each of the last five years. [310703]

Maria Eagle: Data on the percentage of young offenders who were released from specific secure training centres and who returned to education, training and employment are not collected centrally.

An indicator measuring the proportion of children and young people supervised by Youth Offending Teams who are in suitable full-time education, training or employment (ETE) by the end of their sentence now forms part of the local authority National Indicator Set. The indicator counts only children and young people in full-time, not part-time ETE, and only those who go into full-time ETE by the end of their sentence, not those who do so after the sentence closes. It counts both those completing sentences served entirely in the community and those completing the YOT-supervised community element that forms part of custodial sentences. During 2006-07, the baseline year for this indicator, performance was at 67.4 per cent. During 2007-08, this increased by 2.4 percentage points to 69.8 per cent. and during 2008-09 this increased by a further 2.4 percentage points to 72.2 per cent.

War Crimes: Arrest Warrants

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 755W, on war crimes: arrest warrants, (1) if he will take steps to consult all interested parties before bringing forward any proposals to amend legislation relating to the issue of arrest warrants under section 51 of the International Criminal Court Act 2001; [309751]

(2) what recent representations he has received in respect of changes to the law relating to the issue of arrest warrants from *(a)* the Israeli government, *(b)* other governments, *(c)* UK-based organisations and faith groups and *(d)* victims of war crimes; [309752]

(3) what recent consideration he has given to whether the Attorney-General's consent should be required in respect of the issue of *(a)* all arrest warrants, *(b)* arrest warrants issued in respect of charges of war crimes, *(c)* arrest warrants issued in respect of charges of war crimes against individuals whose home jurisdiction is a party to the International Criminal Court, *(d)* arrest warrants issued in respect of Israeli nationals and *(e)* arrest warrants issued in respect of those who are in the UK for meetings with Ministers and officials; [309753]

(4) what progress has been made in the consideration of whether to bring forward legislative proposals in respect of the issuing of arrest warrants without the consent of the Attorney-General; and whether any changes to this process will require Parliamentary approval. [309754]

Mr. Straw: We are looking at this issue as a matter of urgency. No decisions have yet been made. Any changes in this area of the law would require primary legislation.

Youth Custody: Manpower

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the ratio of staff to prisoners is in each *(a)* secure children's home, *(b)* secure training centre and *(c)* young offender institution. [308815]

Maria Eagle: The Youth Justice Board does not specify the levels of staff required at secure children's homes (SCHs), instead specifying the service to be delivered. However, many SCHs are able to deliver one-to-one supervision to large numbers of young people for substantial parts of the day.

The YJB does not set precise staff to trainee ratios for secure training centres (STCs); instead, they agree with providers the minimum staffing levels necessary to ensure effective supervision. Broadly speaking, the minimum staffing levels are three members of custody staff to young people living in a group of eight, and two members of custody staff to young people living in a group of six. In practice, during the core part of the day when young people are in education or activities, there are likely to be more staff engaging with them.

The following table shows the overall staff to young person ratio for each young offender institution (YOI) at 30 November 2009. Young offenders held in adult categorised establishments are not included. Unified staff relates to those staff that are officer or governor grades. The data have been supplied by the National Offender Management Service and have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

The figures for SCHs, STCs and YOIs are not directly comparable. The figures for YOIs relate to all unified staff employed in the establishment, while the ratios for SCHs and STCs relate only to staff engaging directly with young people.

Establishment	*Category*	*Staff in post (Unified)*[1]	*Prisoner population*	*Ratio of unified staff to prisoners*
Ashfield (Contracted)	YP	200	259	1:1.30
Aylesbury	YOI	173	436	1:2.49
Brinsford	YOI/YP	250	529	1:2.12
Castington	YOI/YP	231	320	1:1.39
Cookham Wood	YP	135	104	1:0.77
Deerbolt	YOI	192	501	1:2.61
Feltham	YOI/YP	431	666	1:1.55
Glen Parva	YOI	253	782	1:3.09
Hindley	YP	274	300	1:1.09
Huntercombe	YP	158	244	1:1.54
Lancaster Farms	YOI	250	503	1:2.01
Northallerton	YOI	70	224	1:3.20
Portland	YOI	216	538	1:2.49
Reading	YOI	106	267	1:2.52
Rochester	YOI	263	712	1:2.71
Stoke Heath	YOI/YP	246	600	1:2.44
Swinfen Hall	YOI	214	616	1:2.88
Thorn Cross	YOI	112	286	1:2.55
Warren Hill	YP	147	177	1:1.20
Werrington	YP	94	137	1:1.46
Wetherby	YP	236	316	1:1.34
Total	—	4,253	8,517	1:2.00

YOI=Young Offender Institution. YP=Young Person's establishment. [1] Headcount (part-time staff count as one).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia: Death

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the death of *(a)* Adolfo Tique, *(b)* Diego Ricardo Rasedo Guerra, *(c)* Arled Samboni Guaca and *(d)* Leovigildo Mejia in Colombia in January 2009; and if he will make a statement. [310446]

Chris Bryant: We are aware of all four murders and understand that the Colombian authorities have made no arrests and the perpetrators of the crimes have so far escaped justice.

Although the murder rate in Colombia has almost halved in recent years, the overall figure for 2009 was still as high as 15,817. We regularly raise our concerns with senior Colombian Ministers. I visited Colombia in October 2009, and urged President Uribe to do more to improve the human rights situation. Foreign Minister Jaime Bermudez and I issued a joint statement, declaring that

> "the defence of human rights is necessary and legitimate for democracy, in a country like Colombia which is proud of being fully open and ready for international scrutiny on this subject".

Our embassy in Bogotá also visits those who are under threat, and makes representations to the Colombian authorities in cases of violence or intimidation against trade unionists, including that of Adolfo Tique or other members of Colombian civil society.

Departmental Buildings

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* area and *(b)* estimated value is of (i) vacant and (ii) occupied office space (A) owned and (B) rented by his Department. [310528]

Chris Bryant: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Iraq Committee of Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each security classification have been submitted to the Iraq Inquiry by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [309367]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State, Cabinet Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith) on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 840-41W.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether any *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information in electronic format sought from his Department by the Iraq Inquiry have not been disclosed owing to the Government's obligations to foreign governments or international bodies; and if he will make a statement; [310183]

(2) how many and what proportion of the *(a)* documents and *(b)* other items of information held in electronic format at each level of security classification requested by the Iraq Inquiry have been provided to it by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [310184]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Cabinet Office on 14 December 2009, *Official Report*, columns 840-41W.

Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 January 2010, *Official Report*, column 206W, on Olympic Games 2012, if he will publish the job description of each member of staff responsible for co-ordinating the work of his Department on London 2012. [310278]

Chris Bryant: Yes. I will place copies of the documents in the Library of the House.

Ministerial Corrections

Tuesday 5 January 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Sick Leave

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average length of employment of staff of his Department at each Civil Service payband. [290580]

[Official Report, 12 October 2009, Vol. 497, c. 313W.]

Letter of correction from Ms Barbara Follett:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) on 12 October 2009. I have notified the MP of the error. The error was the figures given in average years column within the table.

The correct answer should have been:

Barbara Follett: The Department for Communities and Local Government came into existence on 5 May 2006 replacing the former Office for the Deputy Prime Minister. The average (median) years in post, by grade level, for staff in Communities and Local Government as at end of March 2009 is set out in the following table:

	Average years (median)
AA	2.9
AO	2.9
EO	2.9
HEO	2.9
SEO	2.5
Grade 7	2.9
Grade 6	1.8
SCS	2.9
All grades	2.9

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Copyright: Music

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have held with representatives from (i) the Federation Against Copyright Theft, (ii) the British recorded music industry and (iii) the Open Rights Group in the last 12 months. [R] [306111]

[Official Report, 14 December 2009, Vol. 502, c. 667W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Siôn Simon:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 14 December 2009. Neither Ministers nor officials in my Department have met representatives from the Federation Against Copyright Theft or the Open Rights Group in the last 12 months. However, I had informal discussions with the Open Rights Group at the C&binet Conference held on 26-28 October.

The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Simon: Ministers have met with representatives from the British Recorded Music Industry (which we understand to mean the British Phonographic Industries) on six occasions in the last 12 months. A Private Secretary or other officials were present at five of the six meetings. Ministers also met representatives from the Featured Artists Coalition on one occasion. In addition, officials met bilaterally with representatives of the BRMI on three occasions, and were involved in several wider meetings.

Neither Ministers nor officials in my Department have met representatives from the Federation Against Copyright Theft or the Open Rights Group in the last 12 months. However, I had informal discussions with the Open Rights Group at the C&binet Conference held on 26-28 October.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 11 January 2010

JUSTICE

Prisoners Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have been released in error as a result of *(a)* mistaken identity and *(b)* other errors in each of the last 12 years. [287035]

[Official Report, 11 November 2009, Vol. 499, c. 487-88W.]

Letter of correction from Maria Eagle:

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. and learned Member for Harborough (Mr. Garnier) on 11 November 2009. Certain figures in the table were incorrect. The correct answer should have been:

Maria Eagle: Prison establishments are required to report known releases in error to the Intelligence and Operations Unit in National Offender Management Service Headquarters. However, the Incident Reporting System does not hold records of these events in a format which can be interrogated electronically to obtain the specific information requested. Information on releases in error prior to 2005 could be obtained only by examining all miscellaneous incident reports manually at disproportionate cost.

The available information is shown in the following table.

	Number of releases in error reported
2005	43
2006	48
2007	35
2008	58
2009 (to 30 September)	35

These incidents include three cases of mistaken identity; one in 2006 and two in 2008. In two cases the prisoner was returned to custody the same day and in the third he was returned within two weeks.

It should be noted that these figures have been obtained by a manual examination of paper records covering a variety of incident types and clearly only includes those errors that have been discovered. The figures are therefore subject to a margin of possible error.

The National Offender Management Service Agency is alert to the increase in 2008 and has taken action to tighten process and focus management attention on this area. Specifically:

All Release in Error incidents must now be reported immediately by telephone as a serious incident. Formal investigations are required in all cases and the learning from investigations has been acted upon.

Prison Governors and Regional Custody Managers have been required to review sentence calculation and discharge procedures and ensure additional managerial attention is given to this area.

Additional guidance has been given to prisons regarding fixed term recall arrangements.

More attention has been given to reporting this type of incident and it is possible that some of the apparent increase has been due to more consistent reporting.

Nevertheless, the number of releases in error remains very small as a percentage of total discharges (less than 0.05 per cent. in 2007, the last year for which discharge figures are currently available).

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 12 January 2010

JUSTICE

Freedom of Information: Government Departments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many information notices the Information Commissioner has issued to each Department in each year since 2005 in circumstances in which he considers there has been undue delay by that Department in providing the information requested. [302841]

[Official Report, 30 November 2009, Vol. 501, c. 440W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Wills:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 30 November 2009. The number of Government Departments to which formal information notices have been issued was incorrect. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Wills: The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the independent authority responsible for enforcing the Freedom of Information Act (the "Act").

Section 51 of the Act provides that the Commissioner may serve an information notice either in relation to a complaint or to assess compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Up to November 2009 the ICO has issued 91 formal information notices to public authorities, 27 of which have been to Government Departments. They are set out in the following table.

Department	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Total*
Department of Transport	—	—	1	—	—	1
Department of Health	1	1	1	2	1	6
Scotland Office	—	—	—	1	—	1
The Treasury Solicitors Department	—	1	—	—	—	1
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	—	1	—	—	—	1
Department for Culture Media and Sport	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cabinet Office	—	—	2	2	—	4
Home Office	—	—	1	1	4	6
Department for Constitutional Affairs	—	1	—	—	—	1
HM Treasury	—	1	—	—	—	1
The Department of Trade and Industry/Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	—	—	—	2	—	2
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	—	—	—	1	—	1
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	—	—	—	1	—	1
Grand total	1	6	5	10	5	27

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 13 January 2010

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Business of the House

Letter of correction from Ms Harman:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given to the hon. Member for Somerton and Frome (Mr. Heath) during Business Questions on 7 January 2010. The full answer given was as follows:

Ms Harman: As far as the freedom of information request and the veto is concerned, there was a full statement on that by the Justice Secretary on—I think—10 December.

Mr. Heath: A written statement.

Ms Harman: I beg the hon. Gentleman's pardon—he is right that it was a written ministerial statement. I think I remember that that statement contained the information that there were something like 16,000 routine FOI requests, of which only two have been vetoed, so it was a very exceptional occurrence, which is why things were spelt out in a written ministerial statement. The framework that is set down by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 was followed as part of that process.

[Official Report, 7 January 2010, Vol. 503, c. 286.]

The correct answer should have been:

Ms Harman: I beg the hon. Gentleman's pardon—he is right that it was a written ministerial statement. I think I remember that that statement contained the information that there were something like 160,000 non-routine FOI requests, of which only two have been vetoed, so it was a very exceptional occurrence, which is why things were spelt out in a written ministerial statement. The framework that is set down by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 was followed as part of that process.

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 14 January 2010

JUSTICE

Coroners: Armed Forces

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for each member of the armed forces killed in action overseas in respect of whom the inquest has not started, when *(a)* the body was repatriated and *(b)* the inquest is expected to begin. [295336]

[Official Report, 26 October 2009, Vol. 498, c. 80-84W.]

Letter of correction from Bridget Prentice:

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the right hon. Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr. Ingram) on 26 October 2009. The correct answer should have been:

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the dates on which service personnel fatalities were repatriated, and the current position regarding the resumption of inquests which have been opened and adjourned pending Service Inquiries or other investigations. On 27 October my hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces (Bill Rammell) and I will make the latest in the series of quarterly statements to the House about the inquests of service personnel and others who have died overseas.

Repatriation dates and inquest resumption dates where known for service personnel who (i) died on active service overseas or (ii) died in England of wounds sustained on active service overseas; and whose inquest resumption is pending. Inquests touching all these service personnel have been opened.

Name of the deceased	*Date of death*	*Date of repatriation*	*Inquest resumption date where this has been set*
Corporal Mike Gilyeat	30 May 2007	8.June 2007	27 October 2009
Private Aaron McClure	23 August 2007	31 August 2007	(tbc) December 2009
Private Robert Foster	23 August 2007	31 August 2007	(tbc) December 2009
Private John Thrumble	23 August 2007	31 August 2007	(tbc) December 2009
Aircraftsman Christopher Bridge	30 August 2007	7 September 2007	7-8 December 2009
Lance Corporal Sarah Holmes	14 October 2007	L/Cpl Holmes died in England	3 November 2009
Sergeant John Battersby	20 November 2007	26 November 2007	Inquest resumed 17 August 2009, adjourned 21 August 2009 to 7-9 December 2009
Trooper Lee Fitzsimmons	20 November 2007	26 November 2007	Inquest resumed 17 August 2009, adjourned 21 August 2009 to 7-9 December 2009
Sergeant Lee Johnson	8 December 2007	17 December 2007	—
Guardsman Stephen Ferguson	9 December 2007	Gdsmn Ferguson died in England	—
Senior Aircraftsman Graham Livingstone	13 April 2008	18 April 2008	10-11 November 2009
Senior Aircraftsman Gary Thompson	13April 2008	18 April 2008	10-11 November 2009
Trooper James Thompson	19 May 2008	26 May 2008	5 November 2009
Corporal Sarah Bryant	17 June 2008	23 June 2008	—
Corporal Sean Reeve	17 June 2008	23 June 2008	—
Lance Corporal Richard Larkin	17 June 2008	23 June 2008	—
Trooper Paul Stout	17 June 2008	23 June 2008	—
Warrant Officer 2 Michael Williams	24 June 2008	30 June 2008	—
Lance Corporal James Johnson	28 June 2008	7 July 2008	—
Lance Corporal Kenneth Rowe	24 July 2008	28 July 2008	12 November 2009
Signaller Wayne Bland	11 August 2008	18 August 2008	—
Ranger Justin James Cupples	4 September 2008	12 September2008	18 November 2009
Lance Corporal Nicky Mason	13 September.2008	19 September 2008	18 December 2009
Lance Corporal David Wilson	4 December 2008	11 December 2008	—
Corporal Lee Churcher	11 December 2008	17 December 2008	—
Marine Damian Davies	12 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Sergeant John Manuel	12 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Corporal Marc Birch	12 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Lance Corporal Steven "Jamie" Fellows	12 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Lieutenant Aaron Lewis	15 December 2008	18 December 2008	—
Rifleman Stuart Nash	17 December 2008	22 December 2008	—
Corporal Robert Deering	21 December 2008	30 December 2008	—
Serjeant Chris Reed	1 January 2009	7 January 2009	—
Marine Travis Mackin	11 January 2009	20 January 2009	—
Captain Tom Sawyer	14 January 2009	20 January 2009	—
Corporal Danny Winter	14 January 2009	20 January 2009	—
Acting Corporal Richard Robinson	17 January 2009	24 January 2009	—
Corporal Daniel Nield	30 January 2009	3 February 2009	—
Private Ryan Wrathall	12 February 2009	19 February 2009	—
Marine Darren Smith	14 February 2009	24 February 2009	—
Lance Corporal Stephen Kingscott	16 February 2009	24 February 2009	23 October 2009
Marine Michael Laski	25 February 2009	Mne Laski died in England	—
Lance Corporal Christopher Harkett	14.March 2009	21 March 2009	—
Corporal Dean John	15 March 2009	21 March 2009	—

Repatriation dates and inquest resumption dates where known for service personnel who (i) died on active service overseas or (ii) died in England of wounds sustained on active service overseas; and whose inquest resumption is pending. Inquests touching all these service personnel have been opened.

Name of the deceased	*Date of death*	*Date of repatriation*	*Inquest resumption date where this has been set*
Corporal Graeme Stiff	15 March 2009	21 March 2009	—
Lance Sergeant Tobie Fasfous	28 April 2009	5 May 2009	—
Corporal Sean Binnie	7 May 2009	13 May 2009	—
Rifleman Adrian Sheldon	7 May 2009	13 May 2009	—
Sergeant Ben Ross	7 May 2009	13 May 2009	27 November 2009
Corporal Kumar Pun	7 May 2009	13 May 2009	27 November 2009
Lieutenant Mark Evison	12 May 2009	Lt Evison died in England	—
Marine Jason Mackie	14 May 2009	22 May 2009	—
Fusilier Petero Suesue	22 May 2009	29 May 2009	2 December 2009
Sapper Jordan Rossi	23 May 2009	29 May 2009	—
Lance Corporal Robert Richards	27 May 2009	L/Cpl Richards died in England	—
Lance Corporal Kieron Hill	28 May 2009	1 June 2009	—
Lance Corporal Nigel Moffett	30 May 2009	5 June 2009	—
Corporal Steven Bolger	30 May 2009	5 June 2009	—
Rifleman Cyrus Thatcher	2 June 2009	5 June 2009	—
Private Robert McLaren	11 June 2009	16 June 2009	—
Lieutenant Paul Mervis	12 June 2009	16 June 2009	—
Major Sean Birchall	19 June 2009	26 June 2009	—
Lieutenant Colonel Rupert Thorneloe	1 July 2009	6 July 2009	—
Trooper Joshua Hammond	1 July 2009	6 July 2009	—
Lance Corporal David Dennis	4 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Trooper Robert Laws	4 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Lance Corporal Dane Elson	5 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Captain Ben Babington-Browne	6 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Trooper Christopher Whiteside	7 July 2009	10 July 2009	—
Rifleman Daniel Hume	9 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Private John Brackpool	9 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Corporal Lee Scott	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Corporal Jonathan Horne	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman William Aldridge	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman James Backhouse	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman Joseph Murphy	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman Daniel Simpson	10 July 2009	14 July 2009	—
Rifleman Aminiasi Toge	16 July 2009	28 July 2009	—
Corporal Joseph Etchells	19 July 2009	28 July 2009	—
Captain Daniel Shepherd	20 July 2009	28 July 2009	—
Guardsman Christopher King	22 July 2009	28 July 2009	—
Bombardier Craig Hopson	25 July 2009	30 July 2009	—
Trooper Philip Lawrence	27 July 2009	30 July 2009	—
Warrant Officer 2 Sean Upton	27 July 2009	30 July 2009	—
Craftsman Anthony Lombardi	4 August 2009	7 August 2009	—
Corporal Kevin Mulligan	6 August 2009	13 August 2009	—
Lance Corporal Dale Hopkins	6 August 2009	13 August 2009	—
Private Kyle Adams	6 August 2009	13 August 2009	—
Private Jason Williams	8 August 2009	13 August 2009	—
Captain Mark Hale	13 August 2009	18 August 2009	—
Rifleman Daniel Wild	13 August 2009	18 August 2009	—
Lance Bombardier Matthew Hatton	13 August 2009	18 August 2009	—
Sergeant Simon Valentine	15 August 2009	21 August 2009	—
Private Richard Hunt	15 August 2009	Pte Hunt died in England	—
Lance Corporal James Fullarton	16 August 2009	21 August 2009	—
Fusilier Simon Annis	16 August 2009	21 August 2009	—
Fusilier Louis Carter	16 August 2009	21 August 2009	—
Serjeant Paul McAleese	20 August 2009	27 August 2009	—
Private Johnathon Young	20 August 2009	27 August 2009	—
Fusilier Shaun Bush	25 August 2009	Fus Bush died in England	—
Sergeant Lee Houltram	29 August 2009	4 September 2009	—
Sergeant Stuart Millar	31 August 2009	4 September 2009	—
Private Kevin Elliott	31 August 2009	4 September 2009	—
Lance Corporal Richard Brandon	2 September 2009	10 September 2009	—
Private Gavin Elliott	3 September 2009	10 September 2009	—
Trooper Brett Hall	16 September 2009	Tpr Hall died in England	—
Corporal John Harrison	9 September 2009	17 September 2009	—

Repatriation dates and inquest resumption dates where known for service personnel who (i) died on active service overseas or (ii) died in England of wounds sustained on active service overseas; and whose inquest resumption is pending. Inquests touching all these service personnel have been opened.

Name of the deceased	*Date of death*	*Date of repatriation*	*Inquest resumption date where this has been set*
Kingsman Jason Dunn-Bridgeman	13 September 2009	17 September 2009	—
Acting Serjeant Stuart McGrath	16 September 2009	24 September 2009	—
Acting Sergeant Michael Lockett MC	21 September 2009	29 September 2009	—
Private James Prosser	27 September 2009	1 October 2009	—
Acting Corporal Marcin Wojtak	1 October 2009	9 October 2009	—
Guardsman Jamie Janes	5 October 2009	9 October 2009	—
Lance Corporal James Hill	8 October 2009	15 October 2009	—

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners serving sentences for *(a)* murder, *(b)* attempted murder, *(c)* rape and *(d)* attempted rape are currently unlawfully at large having escaped or absconded from prison. [295849]

[Official Report, 26 October 2009, Vol. 498, c. 86-88W.]

Letter of correction from Maria Eagle:

Errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. and learned Member for Beaconsfield (Mr. Grieve) on 26 October 2009. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Straw: The following table shows that there are only three offenders currently unlawfully at large who were serving a sentence for any of the four index offences named. Data prior to the periods shown in the table is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Absconds (which are from open prisons) and escapes (from closed prisons) have been falling for some years and 2008-09 recorded the lowest number of absconds and escapes on record. Tracking down prisoners unlawfully at large who may be a danger to the public is taken very seriously by the police and 96 per cent. of absconded prisoners are rearrested and returned to custody.

Prisoners still unlawfully at large in October 2009 following an escape or abscond and broken down by specific index offences

	Prisoners unlawfully at large with an index offence of:			
	Murder	*Attempted murder*	*Rape*	*Attempted rape*
Escapes since 1 April 1998	0	0	0	0
Absconds since 1 April 2004	3	0	0	0